

EC lodges protest with Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The European Community (EC) on Friday protested to Pretoria at growing evidence of serious human rights abuses in South Africa. The protest, one of the most strongly worded to come from the EC during the past two years of political unrest, voiced concern at new media censorship, mass detentions without trial and forced removal of black people. Britain's ambassador to South Africa, Sir Patrick Moberly, met Deputy Foreign Minister Kobus Meiring to lodge the complaint on behalf of the 12-nation grouping. A British embassy statement said Mr. Moberly had voiced the community's grave concern at "growing evidence of serious abuses of human rights in South Africa." Meanwhile, the Swiss government said it still opposed economic sanctions against Pretoria even after two Swiss were kidnapped in Swaziland a week ago and taken to South Africa in a crackdown against opponents of apartheid. Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert told parliament the government condemned South Africa's policy of racial separation but would keep to its policy of not joining economic boycotts.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية بالوادي

OIC proposes Islamic court

RIYADH (AP) — The creation of an Islamic court of justice would help the quest for peace in the Iran-Iraq war, the head of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was quoted Friday as saying. Sharifuddin Pirzadeh, secretary-general of the 46-nation organisation which is based in Saudi Arabia, said the six-year-old war was high on the agenda of the Kuwait-hosted OIC summit starting Jan. 26. "The Islamic court charter will provide a new chance... in halting the conflict between the two Muslim nations," Mr. Pirzadeh told the Saudi newspaper Al-Jazirah in an interview. He said the court, whose draft plan would be submitted to the conference for approval, was designed to find "suitable and speedy solutions" to conflicts among the OIC member states. The court represented a "logical forum for (Muslim) intervention away from foreign organisations," he added. One of the key demands made by Iran for ending the conflict with Iraq is that its Gulf war foe be condemned as the "aggressor" and the initiator of the hostilities. Muslim leaders have suggested in the past that the International Court of Justice in The Hague consider the Iran-Iraq dispute. But the suggestion has not been followed up.

Volume 11 Number 3353

AMMAN, SATURDAY DECEMBER 20, 1986, RABIA AL THANI 19, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Arab ministers warn airlines

TUNIS (Petra) — The Council of Arab Transport Ministers has decided to boycott all airlines which run flights to Qalandia, near occupied Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities have been working to convert the airport into an international airport. In a communique issued at the end of a two-day meeting, the council warned airline companies against jeopardising their interests. Commenting on the outcome of the meetings, the assistant secretary-general of the Arab League, Abdul Muhsen Zalzaleh, said the council discussed a proposal for establishing a company for manufacturing ships and gave special attention to means to combat naval piracy, which he said, cost the marine industry at the international level some \$13 billion a year. Jordan's delegation to the meetings was headed by Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhan.

Matlock to replace Hartman in Moscow

WASHINGTON (R) — Veteran diplomat Arthur Hartman will complete his term as U.S. ambassador to Moscow early next year and is expected to be replaced by Jack Matlock, a White House Soviet expert. Administration officials said Friday, Mr. Hartman's impending departure after five years in Moscow — the longest tour of any U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union since World War II — was announced Thursday by State Department spokesman Charles Redman. Mr. Matlock, a career diplomat on loan to the White House, is the senior Soviet specialist on the staff of the White House National Security Council.

Britain to buy U.S. AWACS

LONDON (AP) — The House of Commons on Thursday night endorsed a government decision to buy U.S. Boeing early warning radar aircraft and scrap a rival British system. Ex-Prime Minister Edward Heath and three former cabinet members abstained to register disapproval. The house, where Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party has a 136-seat majority over all other parties combined, voted 339-170 to back her government. Some legislators saw the decision to buy American as a blow to British national pride, technology and trade prospects. The government said military and scientific advisers agreed the American system was superior and that the British General Electric Co.'s Nimrod system, on which three successive British governments have spent \$930 million (\$1.3 billion), would not meet the standards set by the Royal Air Force.

Sudan reopens Tehran embassy

NICOSIA (AP) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi of Sudan reopened his country's embassy in Tehran on Friday, ending a break with Iran that began when Khartoum sent volunteers to fight for Iraq. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said Mr. Mahdi hoisted the Sudanese flag at the embassy in the presence of several Iranian officials.

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'Camps war' spreads to N. Lebanon amid raging battles in Beirut

6 killed and 15 injured in Tripoli clashes between Tawheed militiamen and Syrian troops
BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Amal militiamen and Palestinian fighters battled in Beirut on Friday while pro-Palestinian fundamentalists clashed with Syrian troops in the northern port of Tripoli.

Police said nine people were killed and 28 wounded. Three were killed and 13 wounded as Syrian-backed Amal forces pounded Beirut's beleaguered refugee camp of Shatila and Palestinian fighters mired nearby Shiite slums, police said.

Guns based in Lebanon's central mountains often intervened during the nighttime and morning bombardment to shell Shiite neighbourhoods close to Shatila with long-range artillery, police said. They said six people were killed and 15 wounded in the sudden flare-up in Tripoli, which is Lebanon's second largest city with a predominantly Muslim population of 850,000. It is 80 kilometres north of Beirut.

The fighting closed roads and

brought normal life to a standstill in the crowded residential areas of Tabaneh and Maalouleh. Traffic was near routine in other parts of the city but residents said explosions from the clashes could be heard and the Syrian army had stepped up patrols.

Some 25,000 Syrian troops are stationed in north and east Lebanon. Hundreds were deployed in Tripoli in September last year after savage battles for control of the city between Syrian-backed militias and the Tawheed fundamentalists. Police and Tripoli-based reporters said the hostilities were a spillover of the war between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by Yasser Arafat and Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Amal militia in Beirut and South Lebanon.

(Continued on page 3)

OPEC works on final accord

GENEVA (AP) — OPEC leaders struggled on Friday to agree on final details of a bold plan for slashing oil production that already has boosted oil prices.

The 13 oil ministers were meeting privately in their hotel suites, seeking to agree on the phrasing of a conference-decision declaration that spelled out the group's new strategy for raising prices.

No time was set for a formal ministerial session at which the final declaration could be adopted.

The leaders of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) also were working on details of a plan for restoring a unified system of fixed OPEC oil prices. The system had been discarded a year ago when OPEC sought to win a higher share of the world market.

Conference sources said the ministers were likely to put off a final decision on implementing the pricing system until a later

meeting, possibly next spring. OPEC's most immediate priority is cutting its oil production to dry up the world oil glut and send prices up to \$18 a barrel from the current range of about \$13 to \$16 a barrel.

All member countries except Iraq had tentatively agreed Thursday on specific cuts in their oil production starting Jan. 1, said conference sources who spoke on condition they not be identified.

A key holdup in the preparation of the final communiqué was yet another skirmish between Iran and Iraq over how to phrase Iraq's role in the deal.

The Baghdad government has steadfastly refused to sign any production-cutting agreement that would bind it to a quota lower than Iran's, while the Iranians had insisted that no accord could exclude Iraq.

Iraq seemed to have won, but the oil ministers were having problems Friday deciding how to

avoid the appearance of granting special treatment to Iraq and still present a united front.

The proposed agreement would set a production limit for OPEC of 15.8 million barrels a day, down about seven per cent from current levels, sources said. Each member would be assigned a production quota, although sources said the word "quota" probably would be left out of the final communiqué to lessen the appearance of special treatment for Iraq, which, by disassociating itself from the deal, would in practice be allowed to produce as much as it wished.

World oil prices rose sharply after Saudi Arabia and Iran gave up trying to force Iraq into the deal, and the trend continued Friday on European markets.

The price of Britain's widely traded Brent crude oil had gained 35 cents a barrel, to \$16.40, by midday on the European spot market, where individual cargoes of crude are sold to the highest bidder.

Leading lawyer named to conduct Watergate-style Iran inquiry

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Lawrence Walsh, a prominent attorney and former judge and diplomat, was appointed on Friday as a special Watergate-style independent prosecutor to conduct a criminal investigation into the Iran arms scandal wracking President Ronald Reagan's administration.

He was named after Mr. Reagan called for an independent investigation to determine if laws were violated and to prosecute lawbreakers in the affair involving secret arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed "contra" rebels in Nicaragua.

The special three-judge court gave 74-year-old Walsh, who was deputy American negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris in 1969, broad investigative powers as the special prosecutor, formally known as an independent counsel.

"Judge Walsh is one of the outstanding lawyers of the nation and brings to this very broad investigation into whether there has been a violation of any federal criminal law by any person in the Iran-contra affair the judgment and ability acquired through years of experience as a prosecutor, federal judge, government official, trial lawyer and as a recognised leader of the bar of the nation," the court said.

Mr. Walsh is one of a long line of special prosecutors assigned to investigate possible wrongdoings independently of government agencies.

Best known of recent times were Archibald Cox and Leon Jaworski who probed the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974 under threat of impeachment for crimes connected with political campaigning.

The Iran investigation, expected to take up to a year, will focus on the secret sale of U.S. weapons to Iran and possibly illegal funneling of up to \$30 million in profits to the rebels fighting to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

The operation apparently took place at a time when Congress had barred the U.S. government from providing military aid to the contra.

The only publicly identified target of the probe has been Lieutenant-General Oliver North, a fired White House aide who allegedly masterminded the operation.

Congressional investigations into the affair have been focussing on whether Col. North acted on his own or with higher authority, even up to President Reagan who has denied all knowledge of the cash diversion.

Two full-scale congressional select committees will begin independent investigations when the Democratic-dominated Congress convenes next month, taking over from smaller Senate and House of Representative panels that have been probing the

affair for the past two weeks. Attorney General Edwin Meese, who requested the independent prosecutor at Mr. Reagan's request, said the probe should also cover whether the law was broken by anyone, in or out of government, who may have conspired with Col. North.

Legal analysts said Mr. Walsh has the stature and legal background necessary to conduct the politically and diplomatically sensitive investigation.

Mr. Walsh will be assisted in the secret investigation by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents. The probe will use a grand jury to issue subpoenas, hear testimony from officials from U.S. and foreign governments and possibly grant immunity.

Both Col. North and his boss, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter, the former White House national security adviser who allegedly knew of the operation, have refused to testify in appearances before Congress, invoking their constitutional Fifth Amendment rights to protection against possible self-incrimination.

Adm. Poindexter resigned on Nov. 25, the same day Col. North was fired over suspected improprieties in the contra cash scheme.

The investigation will be kept confidential until a decision on

(Continued on page 5)

Force 17 claims responsibility for Ramallah attack on Israeli soldier

Combined agency dispatches

A TELEPHONE caller has said the Palestinian Force 17 commando group carried out an axe attack that wounded an Israeli soldier in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Thursday.

Force 17 is loyal to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and has previously claimed responsibility for several attacks on Israeli targets.

The anonymous caller who said he was from Force 17 told an international news agency in Beirut Thursday night: "We will chase the Israeli soldiers and make them pay the price for every drop of Palestinian blood they shed in Jerusalem or outside it."

Israeli officials said on Thursday that an Arab man carried out the axe attack in Ramallah. It followed a wave of violence on the West Bank during which Israeli forces shot dead four Palestinian demonstrators.

The Beirut caller said the axe attacker escaped. An Israeli military spokesman said he was arrested 10 minutes after the incident, still holding the axe.

The soldier, attacked in Ramallah's main Manara square, was rushed in an army jeep to a nearby military headquarters. He was later reported in fair condition, suffering from a slight head wound.

The attack was the worst this week in the occupied territories. It

came amid a wave of unrest touched off by a campus protest Dec. 4 in which Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinian students.

In addition to the four Palestinians killed, more than 40 have been wounded by shootings and clubbings since the violence began. At least 15 Israeli soldiers and others have been wounded by stones.

Ramallah, where 25,000 Arabs live, has been the scene of much of the anti-Israeli violence and troops have visibly increased foot patrols in the bustling commercial district.

The Israeli military said another soldier was injured Wednesday when he was hit in the head by a rock thrown at his car near the city, 15 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

Protests were also reported Thursday in Nablus, and troops open fire to disperse stone-throwing protesters at the nearby Balata refugee camp. Troops were also attacked by stones at the Jalazone refugee camp, near Ramallah.

The West Bank's largest campus, Al Najah University, suspended classes for the day, following clashes Tuesday when soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets to quell a protest by more than 100 students, the military said.

Israel Radio reported Friday that police with dogs trained to sniff out explosives raided two

Jewish seminaries in Jerusalem's Old City on Friday in search of hidden weapons, but found only a switch-blade knife.

One Jewish student was detained briefly, the radio said. The raids came 36 hours after newspapers reported police are concerned that a new Jewish underground may be operating against Palestinians in East Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank.

Police spokesmen were not available for comment.

Following a string of attacks against Palestinians between 1980 and 1984, 25 Jews were convicted of belonging to a terrorist organisation known as the Jewish Underground. Twenty completed their sentences or received pardons. Six are still in jail.

On Thursday, police impounded a car belonging to the Jewish seminary Shuvu Banim in the Old City after it was found to contain flammable material that could have been used to make bottle bombs, the radio said.

On Wednesday, two booby-trapped hand grenades were discovered outside the houses of Palestinian residents.

Last month, the stabbing death of a student from Shuvu Banim by three Palestinians prompted weeks of anti-Arab demonstrations in Jerusalem and anti-Israeli reprisals.

Iraq reports downing Iranian F-4

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its aircraft shot down an Iranian F-4 jet fighter in a dogfight over the Gulf on Friday.

"Our jets spotted the enemy plane while they were executing their duties over Gulf waters... and shot it down in a dogfight," a military spokesman said. He said all Iraqi aircraft returned safely to base.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, Iran has only about 20 F-14 Tomcat interceptors still in service of more than 70 it received from the United States while the late Shah was in power.

On Thursday, Iraq said its warplanes hit a large naval target — its usual term for a tanker or cargo ship — off the Iranian coast in the northern Gulf.

A military spokesman said the target was attacked at six a.m. and all aircraft returned safely to base. The last successful shipping strike reported in the Gulf was an Iraqi raid last Sunday on the 125,865-tonne Maltese-flag tanker Free Enterprise. The vessel was able to proceed under its own power.

Baghdad denied, meanwhile, a Tehran statement that an Iraqi plane was shot down during a raid over Western Iran on Wednesday. A high command communiqué said a jet had destroyed pumping stations in western Iran and Iranian oil platforms in the northern Gulf.

Karachi rioters lynch policeman, injure 4 more

KARACHI (R) — Rioters lynched a policeman and badly injured four others after setting fire to their car in a suburb of strife-torn Karachi early Friday, witnesses said.

A crowd of some 3,000 surrounded the car at about 1.30 a.m., dragged the uniformed policeman out and beat them, dancing and clapping as the victims pleaded for mercy, the witnesses said.

Hospital doctors said another body was brought in with stab wounds, taking the death toll on the sixth day of ethnic rioting in Pakistan's largest city to at least 181.

But police said no untoward incidents were reported in Karachi during religious services on Friday, as prayers were offered at hundreds of mosques for the riot victims.

Friday prayers traditionally are a flashpoint when tensions are high in Pakistan, and thousands of troops and police were on duty to

Government studying reports of accord between JDEC and Israeli authorities

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Jordanian government is studying a report that the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) had reached an agreement with the Israeli occupation authorities to save the ailing Palestinian company from collapse, well-informed sources said Friday.

Reports from the occupied West Bank said on Thursday that the Israeli authorities had agreed to extend the JDEC's concessions for 10 years while ways were being

sought to settle the company's reported \$16 million debt to its main supplier, the Israeli Electricity Company (IEC).

While IEC sources claimed that the JDEC had agreed to give up its concession to supply Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the JDEC strongly denied the claim, according to the reports.

Acting JDEC President Hanna Nasser told Reuters in Jerusalem that there was no agreement on the issue of JDEC concessions to supply power to Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and that the company wanted to retain the concession "as long as the Palestinian

national issue was not settled." Mr. Nasser also told Reuters that the JDEC believed that the IEC should write off the JDEC's debts to the Israeli company.

But Israeli energy officials, quoted in a report in Friday's Jerusalem Post, said they had rejected the company's proposal that it should retain the concession to supply power to Jewish settlements "as long as the Palestinian national issue was not settled" and that they had only agreed to extend the concession for another 10 years.

Despite the conflicting claims, (Continued on page 3)

Soviets explain move to end moratorium

MOSCOW (R) — A senior Soviet army general on Friday said the risk of a U.S. military breakthrough had forced Moscow's decision to end its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing with the first American underground blast of 1987.

General Nikolai Chervov, head of the arms negotiation department of the Soviet General Staff, said the United States had forged ahead with the development of new strategic weapons and space arms during the Soviet testing freeze.

"It should be stated clearly that this is not an equitable situation," Gen. Chervov told a news conference.

"The Soviet Union has not tested nuclear weapons for nearly 18 months and there is a real risk

that the United States may achieve a breakthrough."

The Kremlin announced Thursday night that the Soviet moratorium implemented on Aug. 6, 1985, would end when the United States conducted its first test of the new year.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, in words similar to the government declaration, said the Soviet ban had demonstrated the possibility of practical arms control steps and renewed appeals to the United States to halt its tests.

The Soviet move was dismissed by a White House spokesman Thursday night as irrelevant to U.S. policy and press reports said the first American test of 1987 had been set for Jan. 29.

Gen. Chervov said 24 nuclear

tests had been conducted at the U.S. test site in Nevada since the start of the Soviet freeze. He said the tests were aimed at perfecting both space-strike weapons for the U.S. "Star Wars" programme and strategic arms.

A government statement issued Thursday said persistent refusal of U.S. President Reagan's administration to halt tests had forced the decision on the Kremlin.

The Kremlin statement made clear that Washington's policy decisions would be directly responsible for Moscow resuming nuclear tests.

It said continued testing showed the United States sought military superiority over the Soviet Union, using the blasts to develop its strategic defence initiative, or "Star Wars" programme.

Official reports calm in Kazakhstan after protests

MOSCOW (AP) — A Soviet official said Friday that several hundred students took to the streets in the capital of Kazakhstan after an ethnic Kazakh was replaced by a Russian as republic party leader.

Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovsky said the demonstration in Alma Ata was sparked by a misunderstanding about the meeting of the Kazakhstan Party central committee at which the party leader was replaced, according to the official news agency TASS. He said the situation was back to normal.

TASS carried a brief report Thursday on disturbances in Alma Ata, a city of one million, but did not say how many people were involved or give other details other than to connect the unrest to the party changes. It reported that "hooligans" taking advantage of the situation set fire to a food store and private cars and "insulted townspeople."

The report, which said the

rioting occurred Wednesday night and Thursday, was believed to be the first disclosure by the state-run media of riots in the Soviet Union.

"Some people there did not understand from the beginning what happened at the plenary meeting... Several hundred students took to the streets," Mr. Petrovsky was quoted as saying Friday.

"All would have been well had it not been for interference by hooligans who sought to use the circumstance for staging disorders in the city," he said. "The situation has been normalised now. Meetings of party activists are currently being held in the republic, and the resolute majority of them approve the plenum's decisions."

The TASS report did not elaborate on what was meant by the misunderstanding of the central committee meeting, nor any figures given on arrests, injuries or damage.

Rafsanjani: U.S. paid ransom for hostages

TEHRAN (R) — A senior Iranian official said Friday that Washington paid a ransom to Iran to secure the freedom of U.S. hostages held in Lebanon.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaking at a mass Friday prayer meeting in Tehran, gave no details of the deal.

But he said: "I explicitly declare to the American people and the world that the Americans paid us ransom in the Lebanon affair. We received ransom in return for our intervention."

Iranian officials and Washington have denied that U.S. weapons were sent to Iran in a direct trade for Americans held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Three American hostages were freed over an 18-month period when the White House was secretly trying to improve relations with Tehran, partly by authorising arms shipments.

Mr. Rafsanjani said formal relations between the two countries, broken by the United States during the 1979-81 occupation of the American embassy in Tehran, could not be restored at present.

But he said it would be a first step if Washington released Iranian assets, including weapons and military supplies paid for before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"If you are thinking (of resuming relations), the thing to do is first to release our assets, which are unjustly in your hands now when we are at war (with Iraq). Then we sit down and see what we can do," he said.

He said the release of the assets and Iran's response in requesting our Shi'ite brothers in Lebanon to free U.S. hostages was all that was possible between Iran and the United States for the time being.

Mr. Rafsanjani said many U.S. politicians agreed with President Reagan that the United States should have relations with Iran because of its strategic importance and accused them of failing to serve American interests by not striving to set up ties with Tehran.

"How can they be voted into office in the White House, the Senate, the Congress, and yet not have the guts to implement what is in their country's interest?" he asked.

He urged them to admit their mistake in "adopting a hostile attitude towards a nation which

rose up to regain its rights and nothing more."

"You know that you have great interests in the Gulf and that no one except Iran can safeguard the Gulf's security. Now come out and say this explicitly," he said.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran would never fall in the Soviet orbit, a possibility voiced by some American leaders.

"We will have nothing with the Soviet Union except an equal relations," he said. "They (Americans) should get it out of their heads that we might become a Soviet satellite, but we can be friends with the Soviets ... and that's what we are working for."

Mr. Rafsanjani said the scandal gripping Washington over the arms shipments to Iran showed that the West was vulnerable to intrigues by revolutionary nations.

He said the Western powers implemented their policies in other countries by intervention, provocation and intrigue, but the arms-for-Iran affair showed that the opposite could be done.

"One can create such political crises if he makes plans, gets close to someone, infiltrates some place and spends some money — money is very effective there, although we do not spend money for nothing. One can constantly create crises for them," he said.

He added: "These paper tigers, which people think are big and cannot be confronted, are nothing. They are weak."

Mr. Rafsanjani said the big powers came to their senses when they were treated as they treated others.

"The U.S., Britain, France, Germany, Russia ... they have so many people around the world that we can attack their interests if they attack ours," he said.

"If they can arrest and charge an Iranian, well, we arrest an American. And if there is no American? We arrest a Frenchman and put him on trial."

Mr. Rafsanjani also commented on reports this week that the United States supplied data from its spy satellites to Baghdad to assist Iraqi air attacks on Iran in the Gulf war.

He said Washington was forced to make the disclosure to appease Arab governments.

By helping both sides in the Gulf war, he said, the United States showed that it did not want the war to end.

"The West tries to keep this hotbed of hostility ... The policy of the West and the East is not to allow Iran to win and impose a peace, so that the war will be turned into a permanent hostility between two neighbouring Muslim nations and they can continue to exploit us forever," he said.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran's leaders were "frank and sincere" with their people, who accepted that there were things which they did not have to be told.

"Right now there are things related to the American affair which are too early to be told ... But when it becomes necessary, we will tell our people frankly and we have no need to lie," he said.

By contrast, he said, American officials and the U.S. media had produced "a big volume of lies" since the first disclosures about the secret U.S. initiative towards Tehran were made 45 days ago.

He said "some satans in this country, in the press and other places and under foreign incitation, tried to contaminate the atmosphere and raise questions" about the conduct of officials in dealing with the American overtures.

He was apparently referring to a formal question put forward last month, and later withdrawn, by eight members of parliament seeking details of what went on between Tehran and Washington.

Imam (spiritual leader) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini uttered just one sentence — that this affair was our biggest political victory — and the problems were smoothly solved once and for all," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

He said this was because the Iranian people trusted their political-religious leadership so much that "if it occurs to an ordinary Muslim that Imam (Khomeini) might have said something wrong somewhere he will repent afterwards."

Mr. Rafsanjani half-jokingly criticised Americans for being impolite to their leaders.

"This guy (Reagan) is an old man, after all. He's got one foot in the grave," he said. "They call him all sorts of names: Stupid, incompetent, ignorant, etc. They don't have the courtesy to treat elders with respect."

Detained Italians allowed to leave Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Six Italians detained at Tehran airport were able to leave Friday, hours after an Iranian ship held in an Italian port for a week was allowed to sail, an Italian diplomat said.

"They have been released. Everything has been cleared up," Consul Antonio Zanardi told Reuters. He said the five businessmen and the wife of one of them had returned to their homes or hotels.

A top Iranian official said the six, who were stopped at Mehrabad Airport Thursday when they tried to leave for Rome for Christmas, had been held in order to force Italy to let the Iranian ship Iran Jahad leave Genoa port.

"They (Italians) held up our ship on the pretext that a stowaway was on board. We tried to talk to them in a humane language but it did not work," Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a Friday prayer meeting.

"Then yesterday several Italians were stopped at the airport and told they could not leave ... The Italian prime minister intervened and issued a statement that the ship should be allowed to sail."

Genoa port officials said workers there had refused to service the Iran Jahad until the captain allowed 22-year-old stowaway Amir Albongino Beish Maksari to disembark to seek political asylum.

Iran denied that Maksari wanted asylum in Italy. It said he had boarded the ship in the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas intending to seek work in Dubai but the vessel failed to stop there.

Iranian diplomats, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA, had said earlier that Tehran would file a law suit accusing the Italian government of detaining the ship illegally.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran could attack the interests of Western powers whenever they attacked Iran's interests.

"These paper tigers, which people think are big and cannot be confronted, are nothing. They are weak ... They come to their senses when we treat them as they treat us," he said.

U.S. to send emergency military aid to Chad

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — For the second time in 10 months, the Reagan administration has answered a call by Chad for emergency military aid to help it meet a Libyan threat in the northern part of the country.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday it planned to send up to \$15 million in military aid to the government of President Hissene Habre following a new upsurge in fighting.

Spokesman Charles Redman said Libyan troops, armour and aircraft began attacks on Chadian Armed Forces and civilians in northern Chad in early November.

"These attacks are continuing with the most intense fighting now taking place in the Tibesti mountain area," Mr. Redman said.

Last March, the administration ordered up to \$10 million in military aid for Chad after Libyan-backed insurgent forces launched major attacks along the 16th parallel, the line of separation between rebel-held and government-held territory.

Since then, however, former President Goukouni Oueddi, a former rebel and ally of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, has switched sides in the conflict and his men have said they were battling a Libyan advance.

The new U.S. aid focused attention on Washington's continuing concern over Qadhafi's policies.

U.S. officials fear Libyan domination of its strategically placed southern neighbour could increase the perceived Qadhafi threat to other countries in the region.

Last April the United States sent warplanes to bomb Libyan targets in retaliation for alleged Libyan "support for terrorism."

Mr. Redman said the United States was working closely with the Chadian and French governments on specific military equipment — vehicles, transport

aircraft, small arms, ammunition and medical supplies — to be sent to Chad.

He noted that France, the former colonial master, had the leading Western role in aiding the Habre government.

France, which intervened in Chad in 1983 to stem a Libyan advance, has sent 1,200 men, Jaguar bombers and an air defence system to the capital, N'Djamena.

"U.S. military assistance is designed to complement French efforts," Mr. Redman said.

The State Department said military supplies worth about \$600,000 were sent to Chad two weeks ago. It said a few U.S. military personnel would go to Chad on a short-term basis in conjunction with the emergency airlift, to help with equipment training and maintenance.

"These few, temporary-duty military personnel will work only in the immediate area of N'Djamena, far from the fighting in northern Chad," the department said.

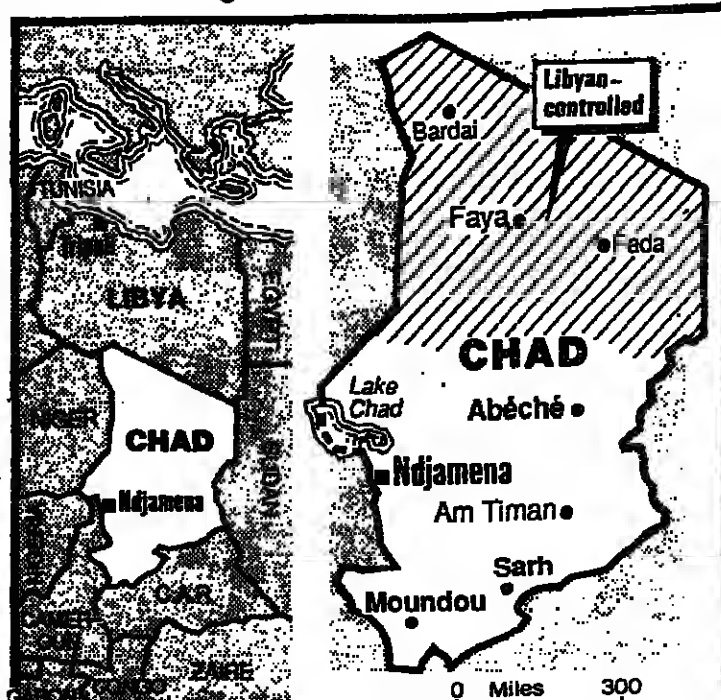
Meanwhile Libya threatened Thursday to retaliate if the French intervened again in northern Chad, according to radio reports from Tripoli.

Radio Tripoli, monitored in London, said Libya has formally protested French military involvement, calling it a threat to Libya's security.

Libyan cargo planes dropped supplies and ammunition Wednesday into the Tibesti region near the Libyan border. The French Defence Ministry said the drops were intended for Chadian forces under attack by Libyan tanks and jets.

Chadian President Hissene Habre had pressed the French to drop supplies to the former rebels to prevent them from being wiped out.

But Tripoli Radio called the French action an "overt aggression." It said "indiscriminate strafing" had been



conducted by the French Air Force against several Chadian villages and towns.

Consequently, the Libyan government "would be obliged to take its forces back into Chad," it said.

N'Djamena Radio, monitored in Abidjan, reported the rebels repelled a Libyan attack in northern Chad on Wednesday morning, and said the Libyans suffered "heavy human and material losses."

According to a Chadian government announcement, the Libyan attack was carried out in the Tibesti towns of Bardai, Wour, and Yedidoum, where it said "patriotic forces," a term used to describe the 2,000 rebels loyal to Goukouni Oueddi, have repeatedly defeated the Libyans.

Mr. Habre's government and Goukouni spokesmen have said the former rebels turned against Libya after a falling out between Goukouni and Libya's Col. Muammar Qadhafi.

Tripoli Radio said the French ambassador was summoned by the

Libyan government Wednesday evening and given a "strongly worded" protest over the escalation of French military involvement in Chad.

It called French intervention "a grave threat to the security of Arab Libya's borders and security," and warned the ambassador of "dire consequences" if such action was repeated.

A Libyan-backed Chadian rebel leader said his group may call for direct Libyan military intervention in northern Chad to counter France's "military aggression ... and its continued aggression." Libyan Radio reported Friday.

Radio Tripoli, monitored Friday in London, quoted Abéché Ibn Omar of Chad's rebel Transitional National Government of Unity (GUNT) as saying the group may call for an urgent meeting of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to discuss French military intervention in Chad.

'Lebanon and Syria about to normalise ties'

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, who earlier this year refused to endorse a Syrian-backed plan to end Lebanon's civil war, has said that Beirut and Damascus were about to restore normal relations.

Interviewed by Radio France Inter, "as fighting continued between Palestinians and Shiite Muslim allies of Syria, Mr. Gemayel also denounced the resurgence of Palestinian military power in Lebanon."

"We are about to restore normal relations with Syria ... on a sound and frank basis," Mr. Gemayel said in the interview, the text of which was released by the president's Baabda Palace.

The Lebanese As Safir newspaper said the rapprochement was "highly serious" and "should lead to summit meeting between Mr. Gemayel and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in the next few weeks."

Mr. Gemayel, a Christian, refused last January to endorse the Syrian-backed peace plan to

end 11 years of civil war, leading to strained ties between the two leaders and political deadlock between Lebanese Muslims and Christians.

Echoing the view of Shiite Amal militia officials, Mr. Gemayel said in the interview that Lebanon could not accept "under any pretext or consideration the return of the armed Palestinian resistance" to refugee camps.

Amal and the Palestinians have been fighting for 11 weeks in and around the refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Amal has said it wants to stop Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is opposed by Syria, from regaining a military foothold in Lebanon.

Amal and Palestinian sources said four people had been killed and 11 wounded in camps fighting in the past 24 hours.

In a separate incident, Palestinian sources said gunfire from a speeding car killed one person and injured three at the entrance to Beirut's Mar Elias Camp.

Muslim leader: U.S. image complicating hostage talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Arab-American spokesman who met with people claiming to speak for the captors of U.S. citizens in Lebanon has said the image of the United States is complicating negotiations for freeing the hostages.

Mohammad Mehdi, president of the American-Arab Relations Committee and secretary-general of the National Council on Islamic Affairs, returned from the Middle East last Saturday. He said he will return to Lebanon in a month or two to renew negotiations for the hostages' release.

"Stories of the U.S. arms sales to Iran weakened our position," said Mehdi, who went to Beirut, Lebanon, and Damascus, Syria, with Dale Shaheen, council vice president.

"This shows in their eyes how unscrupulous the U.S. is. On the Iran-Iraq war, the U.S. sells arms to Iran and gives intelligence to Iraq, all of which creates the image of the ugly American as a result of the unscrupulous, though less attitude of the U.S. foreign

policy-makers," he said Thursday. Mr. Mehdi said he and Mr. Shaheen conferred three times with "people claiming to speak for the 'hostages' captors, twice by telephone in Beirut and once with a man in Damascus."

Mr. Mehdi said that man provided a telephone number for future contacts in Beirut.

"We wanted to establish a basis for dialogue and establish credibility in their eyes," he said. "They promised to study and examine our tentative proposal."

Mr. Mehdi said he had appealed "in the name of Islam and humanity and (said) it will be more beneficial for the one billion Muslims and eight million American-Muslims if they release the hostages."

"This is, I believe, a better approach to appeal to the hearts and minds than to talk of the arms given and not given," Mr. Mehdi said.

Mr. Mehdi said the contacts did not mention any of the individual hostages, but said "they are all in good health."

Montazeri's relatives deny links with Hashemi

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Two relatives of Ayatollah Ali Hussein Montazeri have denied links to a subversive group led by his onetime protégé in a new sign that Iran's future leader is trying to distance himself from trouble.

Montazeri, designated successor to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has been under a cloud since the arrest in late October of Mehdi Hashemi, brother of his son-in-law, on charges of trying to undermine the Islamic Revolution.

Tehran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Nicosia, said Montazeri's son, Saeed, and son-in-law, Hadi Hashemi made the denial in a statement issued in the Holy City of Qom south of Tehran.

They accused foreign countries and news outlets of "exploiting Mehdi Hashemi's relationship to the Montazeri family through marriage for their ominous plans," IRNA said.

It said the two men complained of "malicious plots which by distorting realities ... aim at portraying disputes among Iranian officials."

Roger Owen of Oxford University's St. Antony's College said he believed it was unlikely Montazeri, 63, would be unseated as the chosen heir to the 86-year-old Khomeini.

"They're all fighting each other over the Khomeini succession, but they recognise they're too young to succeed Khomeini," Owen told the Associated Press.

Iraqi minister dies

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's Minister of Light Industry, Tareq Hamad Al Abdullah, has died at the age of 49 after a heart attack, a member of his family said.

Mr. Abdullah, a former army officer, joined the cabinet in June 1982.

He had previously been chairman of the Presidency Chancery and secretary-general of the Ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	21:00	News Summary
Tel. 773111-19	21:05	Hitler: The Story of Motors
	22:00	News Summary
	22:05	In Concert
	23:00	Country Music
	24:00	Close down
PROGRAMME ONE		
15:30		Koran
15:55		Cartoons and children's programmes
16:25		Traffic Instructions
17:00		Circus
17:25		Local programme
18:00		Teaching French
18:25		World News 07:30-24 Hours
19:00		Family programme
19:25		Programme review
20:00		News in Arabic
20:30		Iran News letter
21:00		Arabic series
21:30		Tomorrow's programmes
22:15		Arabic play
22:45		News Summary in Arabic
23:10		Play continued
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00		Entree libre
18:20		La chance aux choux
18:40		News in French
19:15		La Vallée des Peupliers
19:30		News in Hebrew
19:45		Science World
20:00		News in Arabic
20:30		The rise and fall of CIA
21:10		Sunday variety show
22:00		News in English
22:30		Sporting
23:00		The White Horses of Summer
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 KHz. FM		
partly on 95.60 KHz. SW		
Tel. 774111-19		
07:00		Light Music
07:30		News Desk
08:00		Morning Show
10:00		News Summary
10:45		Morning Show Continued
11:00		The Musical in Review
12:00		News Summary
12:45		Readings
13:30		Pop Session
14:00		News Summary
14:45		Pop Session cont.
15:00		News Bulletin
15:45		Jordan Weekly
16:00		Concert Hour
16:45		News Summary
17:00		Instrumental/Old Favourites
17:30		Special Feature
18:00		News Summary
18:45		News Summary
19:00		Top Twenty
19:30		News Desk
20:00		Date with a Star
20:30		Now Music
20:50		Just a Minute

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	6:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
EXHIBITIONS	
An exhibition of architectural paintings of Iraq Al Amir by Francois Larche and Jean-Pierre Lange at the Architecture Gallery — Reg. 3 Centre, Jabel Amman (until Jan. 10).	
A cultural exhibition by the Islamic charitable society of Hebron (Jezures, books, traditional embroidery) at 120, Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24).	
Painting exhibition by Widad Orfali at Abdul Hammad Showman Centre.	
SOVIET FILMS	
Soviet film festival at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Dec. 24).	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 6610267	
American Centre. Tel. 644371	
American Centre Library. 641520	
British Council. 6361708	
French Cultural Centre. 637009	
Goethe Institute. 641593	
Soviet Cultural Centre. 642049	
Spanish Cultural Centre. 639777	
Turkish Cultural Centre. 665195	
Haya Arts Centre. 667186	
Hussien Youth City. 641793	
Y.W.C.A. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library. 637111	
University of Jordan Library. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 1000 years old. Also comes from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qara (Cindal Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Friday and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel Luweibeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL PIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (09) 532025, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS **ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS** (Terminal 1)

04:05	..... Sana'a (JU)
05:05	..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00	..... Athens (RJ)
09:20	..... Cairo (RJ)
09:30	..... Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:30	..... Damascus (RJ)
10:00	..... Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45	..... Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
11:20	..... Cairo (RJ)
11:30	..... New York, Vienna (RJ)
12:45	..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:40	..... Tripoli (RJ)
13:45	..... Larnaca (RJ)
15:00	..... Baghdad (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:45	..... Belgrade (JU)
06:15	..... London, Larnaca (BA)
11:00	..... Cairo (MS)
13:45	..... Kuwait (KU)
14:45	..... Tripoli (LH)
15:40	..... Riyadh (SV)
17:40	..... Frankfurt (RJ) additional
17:45	..... Paris, Damascus (AF)
18:25	..... Beirut (MS)
18:25	..... Amsterdam, Larnaca (KLM)
18:30	..... Baghdad (IA)
19:35	..... Rome, Damascus (AZ)
21:00	..... Frankfurt (LH)

DEPARTURES **ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS** (Terminal 1)

04:05	..... Athens (RJ)
06:20	..... Frankfurt (RJ) additional
11:00	..... Vienna, New York (RJ)
11:30	..... Tripoli (RJ)
11:30	..... Paris (RJ)
12:45	..... Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:45	..... Geneva, London (RJ)
13:40	..... Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
13:45	..... Cairo (RJ)
15:00	..... Larnaca (RJ)
15:30	..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:45	..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:00	..... Tripoli (RJ)
21:00	..... Baghdad (RJ)
23:45	..... Kuwait (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

04:05	..... Belgrade (JU)
06:20	..... Frankfurt (LH)
09:30	..... Larnaca, London (BA)
12:20	..... Cairo (MS)
15:00	..... Kuwait (KU)
15:45	..... Kuwait (LH)
16:40	..... Riyadh (SV)
19:30	..... Baghdad (IA)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

--- Khawia
--- Hildebrandt
--- De Albeser
--- Wild Cosmos

Amal Kewar and Sons Company, with its new offices in Shamsiassi, at your service, tel. 603703/5.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Thursday rates

Local selling rates in JLS

Belgian franc	83/	83.8
Dutch guilder	152.8/	154.3
French franc	52.7/	53.3
Italian Lira	14.9/	15.2
Japanese yen (for 100)	212.6/	214.9
Swedish crown	50/	50.5
Swiss franc	204.1/	206.7
U.K. sterling pound	496.8/	500.7
U.S. dollar	348.4/	351.3
W. German mark	172.5/	174.6

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Cloudy weather with a drop in temperature and rainy conditions and night snowfall is expected over hilly areas. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba gulf it will be partly cloudy with some showers and showers. Winds will be southerly and the seas rough.

Expected temperatures:	
Amman	3/ 8
Aqaba	10/18
Desert	4/11
Town of Aqaba	9/16

Jordan, Egypt conclude agreement on manpower and employment

AMMAN — Jordan and Egypt have concluded an agreement on the employment of manpower, Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here on Thursday.

In a statement upon his return to Amman from Cairo where he held talks with Egyptian officials on the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan, the minister said both countries should prepare lists of skills required for the Jordanian and Egyptian labour markets and that contracts for the employment of workers from either country should be concluded through the Ministries of Labour in Cairo and Amman.

Three months will be allowed for all Egyptian workers in Jordan and Jordanians employed in

Egypt to acquire work permits to maintain their present jobs, the minister said. He said that the agreement provides for cooperation in vocational training, social security matters, and occupational safety measures.

Documents

The two sides, he said, agreed that workers have to acquire certificates clearly indicating that they had passed trade eligibility tests in accordance with regulations adopted by their home countries, and forms stating that he or she is not wanted by the law in their home country. These documents and other necessary papers are needed to obtain a work permit, he noted.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that the

two countries agreed to have more visits between Labour Ministry officials of Egypt and Jordan in order to discuss and exchange expertise and views about manpower employment, social security affairs, and vocational training. They also agreed that periodic meetings be held to discuss these matters by a committee set up by both countries under a 1985 agreement.

Social security

He said that an agreement was reached that the Social Security Corporation in Egypt should pay Egyptian workers or their families pensions due to them from the Social Security Corporation (SSC) in Jordan.

Talent and beauty at the keyboards

Text and photos
by Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A very special series of piano concerts are to be given this week in Amman by the Farrell Sisters from the United States. Organized by the Home and Garden Club in cooperation with the Society of the Friends of Liver Patients — to which proceeds will go, the event will introduce Mary-Ann, Monica, and Kathleen Farrell.

A first performance (fully-booked for several days) is scheduled at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel on Saturday Dec. 20. Three other performances are scheduled at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), on Monday Dec. 22 at 8:00 p.m., Tuesday Dec. 23 at 8:00 p.m., and a last one for students, on Saturday Dec. 27 at 4:00 p.m.

In addition to being very talented pianists, the three young sisters (real sisters), have won the titles of Miss New York 1984 for Mary-Ann, Miss Florida 1985 for Monica and Miss T.E.E.N. Florida 1986 for Kathleen.

The Farrell Sisters explained to the Jordan Times that, contrary to the way they are sometimes in Europe, beauty pageants in the United States do not evaluate only physical beauty, but take into consideration other talents, mainly artistic ones. The winner often is given a scholarship to study the subject in which he or she is interested.

Different tastes

In fact, listening to Kathy, Mary-Ann or Monica playing the piano is believing that beauty is not only in their figure or on their face, but literally on the tips of their fingers. Although they each have a different style and have their own musical preferences, the three sisters play the keyboard with great expression. While Monica has a weakness for the



The Farrell Sisters from left to right: Monica, Kathleen and Mary-Ann.

romantic period, (Chopin, Rachmaninoff), Kathy has a "classic classical" taste and prefers J.S. Bach. Mary-Ann is the most oriented towards modern music and plays music by French composers Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, and Argentinian Ginastera. One still recalls the wonderful piece by Ginastera ("Dance of the Sad Lady") that American pianist Joseph Holt played at the RCC earlier this year.

MUSIC PREVIEW

Their different tastes probably translate the degree of musical maturity that each one of them has reached at this stage. This might explain, for instance, Mary-Ann's love for modern music and even of jazz and improvisation. She is in perfect control of the keyboard, even when playing complex, modern rhythms. Monica's preference for Chopin and Rachmaninoff reflects the very attraction of the piano itself, taken as an instrument, and not as a simple tool for music production. Kathleen, the youngest of the three, might be finding in J.S. Bach, her favourite composer, the beauty of the most perfect musical structures.

Discipline
The Farrell Sisters started studying the piano at the early age of five. They confess that the discipline that their parents then imposed on them, regarding their musical studies, has been an essential element for their success today. Their presence in Amman this month is the first opportunity they have to perform together as they usually give solo recitals.

The series of concerts in Amman will introduce Monica, Kathleen and Mary-Ann, each presenting her own programme. Kathy will play a Bach's Prelude and Fugue, a Mozart Sonata and a composition by Bela Bartok. Monica's selection will also include a Bach's Prelude and Fugue, the famous Rhapsody in Blue by George Gershwin, and a piece by Manuel de Falla as well as an Etude by Chopin, while Mary-Ann has chosen to play a Sonata in C Major by Johannes Brahms, the Estampes of Claude Debussy and a composition by contemporary American Samuel Barber.

The exceptional blend of music and beauty that the Farrell Sisters are bringing to Jordan should leave a memorable imprint in the mind of all those who will be at their recitals.

Symposium on social security concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A 12-day international symposium on social security concluded here on Thursday. Taking part in the symposium, organized by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in cooperation with the Social Security Corporation (SSC), were 37 trainees from nine countries.

Participants discussed the various social security systems in force in the 129 member states of ISSA and the financial and administrative systems in the Middle East region. They also discussed social security systems in force in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain.

Delivering lectures at the symposium were experts from ISSA, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the ISSA regional office for Asia, in addition to number of specialists from Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Participants said tribute to Jordan's experience in the field of social security and said it has progressed in a short period of time. They praised in particular the SSC's ability to expand its umbrella to cover all Jordanian workers inside and outside Jordan and the privileges and benefits, it offers to beneficiaries.

In an interview with Petra, Vladimir Rys, secretary general of ISSA, said that although Jordan's Social Security Corporation was only established in 1980, its operations have been wide and varied. He added that Jordan's SSC has taken part in various ISSA conferences, aimed at developing social security systems in the world.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New York archbishop to visit Jordan

NEW YORK (R) — Cardinal John O'Connor, archbishop of New York, will make a 10-day visit to Jordan, Israel and Egypt starting late this month, his office has said. He will visit the Middle East in his role as president of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), the office said. CNEWA is a U.S. organization which receives funds for missions and humanitarian activities in Near and Middle Eastern countries where Catholics practise Eastern rites. O'Connor is scheduled to depart New York on Dec. 27.

W. Germany to extend technical aid

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed in Amman on Thursday providing for West German technical aid to Jordan to help the Kingdom carry out a rural development scheme in the Zarqa River Basin. Under the agreement, West Germany will supply equipment and technicians for the project and will train personnel implementing the plan. West Germany will cover part of the project's costs. Once the training period is over, Jordanian technicians will replace Germans, according to the agreement which was signed by Minister of Agriculture Marwan Himoud and West German Ambassador Herwig Bartels.

Salt corporation re-elects committee

SALT (J.T.) — The general assembly of the Salt Reconstruction Corporation on Thursday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Ja'afar Al Shami, chairman of the board of the administrative committee, and re-elected the former committee for a new term. Posts were divided as follows: Mr. Ja'afar Al Shami, chairman of the administrative committee; Dr. Kamal Al Shaer, vice chairman; Dr. Abdullah Al Nsour, treasurer; Dr. Abdul Razzaq Al Nsour, secretary; Mr. Marwan Al Himoud, Dr. Anis Munsheer, Mr. Bakr Al Hiyari, Mr. Mamdouh Abu Hassan, Mr. Mohammad Al Abd Hussein, Mr. Mohammad Al Dawoud and Mr. Eid Al Hadidi as members.

Engineers organise architectural week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Engineers Association will organise an architectural week between Dec. 30, 1986 and Jan. 6, 1987 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. The event, to be held under the slogan Amman — the city and its inhabitants, includes an architectural exhibition, a symposium on architecture and construction in Amman, a competition for designing a yard next to the Palace of Justice in Amman, and an outing for engineers. Several working papers are to be reviewed at the symposium discussing various aspects of architecture.

Saudi delegation leaves after signing minutes on economic cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Saudi delegation, headed by Minister of Finance and International Cooperation Under Secretary Osama Faqih, left Amman on Friday after signing minutes of economic cooperation.

The minutes were within the framework of a three-day meeting held by the joint Jordanian-Saudi Arabian economic committee.

The minutes provide for means of boosting and promoting economic cooperation between the two countries and increasing the volume of trade between them. The minutes also cover commodities which are to be partially or wholly exempted from customs duty and also measures to be introduced for facilitating the flow of national products between the two countries.

Both sides to the meeting underlined the importance of increasing the exchange of visits by officials and specialists in industry and trade from either country in order to bolster economic cooperation between them. They also reviewed steps that have been taken to create a Jordanian-Saudi Arabian joint industrial agricultural investment company which has been approved by the Saudi and Jordanian governments. They also discussed means for developing transport and services at ports and border posts and points of entry to facilitate travel, the passage of goods and transit operations. The minutes were signed by Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, and Mr. Faqih.

Rifai, Lower House members discuss information policy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special meeting was held between Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and the majority of members in the Lower House of Parliament to discuss the government's information media policy in general and the coverage of Parliament sessions in particular.

The meeting at the Parliament on Thursday was held behind closed doors and came in response to a demand made by 15 deputies to tackle official censorship regarding the legislative body's meetings on media coverage of Parliament sessions and debates. Journalists were not allowed to attend the session in which a number of Cabinet members, including Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib, took part. House Speaker Akef Al Fayez told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the assembly dwelt on the government's official policy regarding local, regional and international issues and, as published by and broadcast on the official media.

The meeting was prompted by the official media's handling of the House's proposal to condemn Britain for its move to sever diplomatic ties with Syria and the denunciation of Britain was unanimously endorsed during the House's Nov. 23 session.

Petra and the radio and television stations did not give details of the proceedings of the session and the House's decision to denounce Britain was only

touched upon in passing or greatly played down, deputies charged. Later, during the House's Dec. 6 session which was dedicated to the government's presentation of its 1987 fiscal budget, 15 deputies signed a memo and presented it to Mr. Fayez asking for a special session. Before the deputies signed the memo, a heated debate broke out between deputies Yousef Al Atham, Laith Shbeilat, Fawzi Shaker Al Touameh, Miflch Al Oudatallah, Mohammad Al Haj Abdullah on the one hand and Mr. Fayez on the other. The deputies' arguments centred on the government's relationship vis-a-vis shaping the outcome of Parliament sessions and called for a special and joint session between the government and the legislators to study the privileges and duties of the local media to reach a joint consensus on what should and what should not be published by the newspapers and broadcast on radio and television.

Commenting on the outcome of Thursday's meeting, Mr. Fayez told Petra that Mr. Rifai answered all the queries raised by the deputies and described the proceedings as "carried out in an atmosphere of frankness and clarity."

"This atmosphere of understanding that marked the discussions, reinforces the existing cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities," Mr. Fayez said.

'A Christmas Carol'

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — One would have to go a long way to find amateur theatre of the quality we are currently seeing in Amman. The productions which, over the last few years, have ranged from lavish musicals to spartan operas have all been marked by professional performances and direction, and "A Christmas Carol" on show at the Studio Theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre tonight and tomorrow night is no exception. Adapted by David Thompson from Charles Dickens' famous story, "A Christmas Carol" is a short, one-act piece which, in dialogue and narrative, tells the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's conversion from skintight philanthropist one cold Christmas Eve.

First performed in 1979 for the British Council in Athens, this classic ghost story, with its lengthy passages of description and moralising, cannot have been easy to dramatise. Mr. Thompson, however, has done an extremely good job condensing the story down to its main theme and dialogue without losing any of the excitement or any of Dickens' marvellous characters. The end result is a swiftly moving piece touched with comedy and poignancy that keeps the audience engrossed from beginning to end.

Scrooge's change of spirit

As well as writing the play, Mr. Thompson also takes, among other minor ones, the main role of Scrooge, his sour face and mean, hunched figure slowly opening up after the visitations of the ghosts of Marley, Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas



Vanessa Batrouni (left), David Thompson (centre) and Colin Garland (right) raise their glasses in the spirit of Christmas in a scene from 'A Christmas Carol'.

yet to come, into the jovial hand pumping extrovert nobody recognises.

The rest of the many parts are taken by the only other two actors in the play, Vanessa Batrouni and Colin Garland, the latter taking the roles of all the ghosts. Although eerily lit and effectively played by Mr. Garland, the ghosts could have done to have been a little more spooky, but limited by a lack of chains to shake, it is difficult to say how this might have been achieved.

As the long-suffering, kindhearted Bob Cratchit and as the amiable Mr. Fezziwig, Mr. Garland, however, excels while Mrs. Batrouni makes a wonderful Mrs. Cratchit, stomping around her kitchen serving up a Christmas lunch that leaves her family comatose with satisfaction.

It is a tribute to the ability and scope of these three actors who portray all the different characters so well that one tends to forget they are actually reading the play from a script — something that

can offputting and tedious if not handled well. Aided by an interesting introduction, in which after "A Christmas Carol" has been given as a Christmas gift, three friends decide to read it out loud as an evening's entertainment, one quickly becomes unaware that the actors are hampered by anything, let alone a cumbersome book.

Atmospheric set

The simple set with its Christmas tree and atmospheric candles is effectively used by the cast, who effortlessly convince their audience of the presence of the invisible log burning fire, the four poster bed, doors and turkeys to mention just a few.

Absorbingly entertaining, clever and fun "A Christmas Carol" is well worth catching.

Starting at 7:30 p.m., "A Christmas Carol" can be seen tonight, Saturday Dec. 20 and tomorrow night, Sunday Dec. 21 at the Royal Cultural Theatre. Tickets JD 2.

'Camps war' spreads

(Continued from page 1)

He said Mr. Arafat asked Soviet Ambassador Victor Mezin, who delivered the letter, to convey his gratitude to the Soviet leadership for its "concern towards the ordeal of the Palestinian people in the refugee camps."

All Arab diplomats told Reuters that Soviet leaders also sent a letter to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad urging him to intervene to stop the fighting in Lebanon.

The PLO accuses Syria of supporting Amal in its battles with Palestinians. It had asked Moscow to use its good offices with Damascus to persuade Amal to lift its sieges of the camps.

In Beirut, two weeks of Iranian efforts to stop the Amal-Palestinian battles lay in tatters as the warring sides exchanged heavy tank and mortar fire.

About 700 people have been killed since Sept. 30 in the struggle for control of the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and South Lebanon.

Palestinian sources accused Amal of attacking the Shatila refugee camp under cover of heavy fire from its Syrian-supplied T-54 tanks, while fierce battles broke out at flashpoints around the Bourj Al Barajneh camp.

Residents in the teeming Shi'ite suburbs around the camps said mortar bombs fired by Palestinians slammed into the streets, forcing residents to huddle in corridors.

Fighters loyal to Mr. Arafat, undermined Iranian negotiators' efforts a week ago when they refused to withdraw from hard-won outposts near Sidon until Amal lifted sieges of camps.

Witnesses at the disputed posts in Maghdousheh village said Palestinian and Amal fighters erected new barricades on Friday and reinforced their positions as residents salvaged belongings from their shell-pocked houses.

Syria and Amal blame the fighting on Mr. Arafat, who has wide support in the Lebanon

camps, and say he is trying to regain the Lebanon power base.

Mr. Arafat says Syria is using Amal to drive Palestinians out of Lebanon altogether and his fighters are only defending their homes.

The Palestinians punched out of their Sidon camps Nov. 24 to west Maghdousheh's bluffs from Amal in their biggest military offensive in South Lebanon since Israel's 1982 invasion.

The hills overlook Sidon's refugee camps of 'Ain Al Hilweh and Mieh Mieh as well as the coastal highway linking predominantly Shi'ite South Lebanon to Beirut.

Lihyan leader Colonel Muammer Qadhafi charged on Friday that the Shi'ites were seeking to carve out an Israeli-backed mini-state in South Lebanon.

Col. Qadhafi, openly urging the Palestinians for the second day to oppose Amal, called on all "Lebanese nationalists" to unite with the Palestinians against Amal to "save Lebanon from being torn to pieces."

Col. Qadhafi is an ally of Syria, Amal's main backer. But Amal has been hostile to Col. Qadhafi since the Shi'ite movement's founder, Imam Musa Sadr, mysteriously disappeared on a visit to Libya in 1978.

Government studying 'accord'

(Continued from page 1)

The Jerusalem Post said, JDEC officials have conceded that "an understanding" was reached with the Israeli energy ministry. The Post quoted senior JDEC officials as saying that they were angry about the "premature" announcement of the "understanding." They told the Post that ideas were merely raised at a meeting between Mr. Nasser and Israel's energy minister, Moshe Shahal, last week.

Well-informed sources in

Jordan to export wide range of commodities to Iraq

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan is to export 95 types of commodities to Iraq during 1987, according to Mr. Mahmoud Malahmeh, economic counsellor at the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad.

He said that these products, which will be sold through the Jordanian trade centre in Baghdad, have been approved by the Jordanian-Iraqi higher joint committee, which concluded its meetings here on Tuesday.

According to Mr. Malahmeh, the following products are included in the list of goods to be exported to Iraq: Cigarettes, animal feed, feed concentrates, irrigation pipes, pesticides, sports and leather shoes, detergents, batteries, veterinary medicine, wooden doors, clothes, tomato paste, olive oil, cooking stoves, refrigerators, cosmetics, carpets, aluminium, marble, agricultural plastic covers, vegetables and fruit, medical appliances, cotton cloth, concrete, iron, leather bags, confectionery, mineral water, pre-fabricated buildings and electric lifts.

Amman expected the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs to ask a JDEC official to visit the East Bank to discuss the issue. Reports of the "understanding" or "agreement" have provoked resentment among JDEC unions which said that JDEC personnel were not consulted over the issue. Representatives of the unions, quoted by the Post, also said that they opposed any compromise on the part of the company or the dismissal of any worker from the company.

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VIEW FROM AMMAN

Zionist 'myth-information' and Reagan: Truth will emerge

By Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber

FUTURE historians may yet write that president Ronald Wilson Reagan, the Republican 40th president of the United States, was elected twice, in 1980 and 1984, but that he ruled effectively only from 1980 to 1986. For the remaining two years Mr. Reagan, though one of the most popular presidents in American history, was busy defending himself against terrible charges launched against him by his country's mass media. Within its own borders, America is a country ruled by law: a democracy where the respect and the dignity of man, every man, is a fact of life and where the respect for the rule of law is enforced by a combination of forces, Congress, the Supreme Court and a free press. Within the borders of the U.S. the system works beautifully, but unfortunately it is not the case outside. It is in its international relations, in its foreign policy, especially with regard to the Arab World that America has shown the least sensitivity. In fact the U.S. policy on the Middle East is marked by utter neglect and disdain except where Israel is concerned. To the U.S. Israel is the child that can do no wrong and whose actions are, were and shall always be for all time right. The Zionist influence machine with AIPAC, the American-Israeli Political Action Committee, at its apex in America has often rendered American politicians, senators, congressmen, even presidents helpless. Its reach in American politics seems unlimited and its influence all pervasive.

Alexis De Toqueville, the great French intellectual who visited America in 1831, and who wrote one of the greatest books on the experiment of democracy in the United States, *American Democracy*, cautioned against what he called "the tyranny of the majority." He thought that because of the terms of equality under which Americans lived, and because the majority, he thought, could be easily led by its passions he feared that the minority or the minorities might be tyrannised. For reasons outside the scope of our discussion here, that feared eventuality never happened; on the

contrary, those same conditions of equality and freedom gave rise to a new and perhaps unprecedented phenomenon in world history: the tyranny of the minority where a dedicated well-financed, well-organised and ideologically motivated minority has come to dominate the majority. George Washington, first president of the United States, who preceded De Toqueville by some four decades, also cautioned against the unreasonable, passionate "attachment" to a foreign nation.

President Dwight Eisenhower, a principled man, was the only American president to use his and his country's power and influence in an evenhanded manner in the Middle East when he was instrumental in forcing Israel to withdraw from occupied Sinai in 1956. A fortunate or perhaps an unfortunate historical incident. Fortunate since Israel withdrew from Sinai and the Suez Canal Zone which it reoccupied again in 1967 and unfortunate in that it taught the Zionist lobby in the United States a lesson which they well heeded. Since that time the Zionist lobby shifted its focus from the White House to the Congress. Of course applying pressure on 100 senators and 435 congressmen is more consuming in time, effort and resource than applying pressure on one man, but the end result is well worth it: a reliable and steady support is built up that is not as easy to change as is the case with one individual, however friendly or reliable he may be. One man may be swayed by circumstances, by a sudden awakened awareness or a sense of justice or by the realisation that what is happening is not in the best interest of the United States. Many dangers lurk if reliance is placed on one man. Such a chance should never be allowed to be taken.

President Reagan is in his second term of office, and though he has been one of the most ardent supporters of Israel, he is also at the same time the American president who has his name on an initiative for peace in the Middle East. As a man who has reached the zenith of

personal popularity in his country, about to retire as an elder statesman he may, he just possibly could entertain notions of renewing a sense of justice and fair play. Surely someone will protest — another conspiracy theory — yet the whole affair is so curious it defies the imagination. Only a few weeks ago the same mass media that are now bedeviling and reviling the man, was singing his praises. What happened?

Shortly after Mr. Bernard Kalb, the state department spokesman, resigned protesting the "disinformation" campaign which was designed to destabilise Col. Qadhafi of Libya, the anti-administration flood gates opened. One wonders if Mr. Kalb really cared about Mr. Qadhafi, or about "disinformation" for that matter. He was there when the Sabra and Shatilla massacre happened, and when many other similar acts took place around the globe. One thing that can be gathered from the whole Irangate affair concerns the image of President Reagan within his country and elsewhere as well. It is a terrible lesson that is designed not for him alone but for others in power as well and not only now but for the future too. Undermining his authority, moral and otherwise, is designed to serve as a lesson that even the most powerful are within reach. The tyranny of the minority was indeed not visualised by De Toqueville, but it may yet become a deadly virus that may threaten the whole American body politic.

No Arab now is asking America to abandon Israel, not after all what the Americans have given to the Israelis so far: economic and military grants, free trade zones, arms, strategic alliances, etc. But America, and the rest of the world, have to know that ultimately there will be a price to pay for all of this. The Zionists are driven by psychologically powerful, ancient hatreds, and the fog and the "myth-information" they created to capture the West must and shall somehow be exposed.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's
Al Ra'i: Arab-American relations

AS the impact and the controversy over the American arms shipments to Iran escalate, the Arabs tend to be more and more silent; and their reaction has not so far exceeded an expression of condemnation. Of course the controversy inside and outside the United States does not reflect a sympathy towards Iraq, but it is rather an expression of lack of credibility in the American administration. But the Arabs seem to have become accustomed to American lack of credibility and are therefore inactive towards such shipments. The Arabs are wrong to believe that the current controversy within the United States over the Iran arms affair would lead to an American policy either more balanced or working in their favour. They are advised to take a firm position with regard to Washington and its attitude towards the Gulf war; and they ought to translate their condemnation of Washington's behaviour into action to make the United States realise its grave blunder. The Arabs ought to remember that the United States is continuing a large-scale campaign in Europe, linking the Arabs with terrorism and drawing further hostility from world nations towards the Arab countries. They also ought to remember that Washington is leading a campaign intended to obstruct efforts for convening an international conference to deal with the Middle East issue and it is continually helping the Israeli aggressors to pursue their terrorist actions in the Arab World. These American attitudes are sufficient to make the Arabs reexamine their policies towards the United States.

Al Dustour: The West embraces Israel

NEWS about U.S.-Israeli meetings for granting Israel NATO membership status comes as no surprise to the Arabs because of the obvious coordination between Tel Aviv and Washington over the years in strategic matters. But what attracts our attention is the timing of such meetings which coincide with a campaign launched by Israel against the Arab population under its occupation and terrorist actions it is practising against the Arab countries; and above all its stepped up campaign to obstruct the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. This tendency to expand U.S.-support and help for Israel to boost its aggressive power and enable it to persecute more Arabs is clearly designed to tighten Israel's terrorist grip on the occupied Arab territories and Tel Aviv's power to expand and to impose its domination in the Arab region. The United States has been continually extending military, financial and other forms of assistance to Israel to encourage it to pursue its aggression in the Arab region. But the news about U.S.-Israeli meetings to give Tel Aviv a new status in the NATO alliance implies that Washington is trying to bribe American Jews to help it overcome the present scandal over the Israel-American arms shipments to Iran. Perhaps, the Israelis are also looking such news in order to step up a psychological warfare against the Arabs.

Sawt Al Shaab: The true face of the U.S.

WASHINGTON'S irrational behaviour and unstable policies reflect the fact that the United States has lost all its credibility not only in the Middle East but also world-wide. In justifying American arms shipments to Iran, President Reagan said that this country is of significant strategic importance for the United States, and Washington should offer a token of friendship to it in the form of arms. This statement was contradicted by another issued by Secretary of State George Shultz who said that Washington is committed to a firm policy of not selling arms to either party in the Gulf conflict, and does not encourage others to sell arms to the combatants. It is obvious that Shultz has been trying to cover up for the president's attitude that revealed the underhand dealing, and has been trying to infuse credibility in Washington's policies. But acts speak louder than words, and the U.S. arms shipments to Iran can only convince the world that Washington is bent on encouraging Iran's aggression on the Arab Nation.

Thursday's
Al Ra'i: Arabs fail to aid Lebanon

AFTER weeks of bloodshed and continued fighting in Lebanon the Arab countries have not yet found a formula to bring an end to the sufferings and the tragedies of the innocent people. All that the Arab foreign ministers arrived at in their meetings in Tunis was to hold another meeting in Tunis next Monday. The on-going fighting in Lebanon is a tragedy for all Arabs and not only for the refugees in their camps, and it is a conspiracy against the Arabs and the Palestinians alike. In this on-going war we have been witnessing a fratricidal massacre and a futile factional conflict that can only serve the enemies of the Arab Nation. It is a real tragedy to see brothers in arms who had cofronted the Israeli invasion and fought together to expel the invaders now involved in such a bloody conflict and an endless struggle, while Israel continues to occupy Arab land and to raid refugee camps. The blame should be placed squarely on Arab countries whose differences have so far prevented these brothers from continuing their fighting and whose leaders are involved in side differences with no time to give to the Lebanese question. These Arab states have allowed the Palestinian and the Lebanese blood to be shed without raising a finger to stop it and they have not undertaken serious measures to abort the conspiracy the Arab Nation is now facing.

Al Dustour: Mahdi's peace mission

ANOTHER mediation effort to end the Gulf conflict has started with the arrival of the Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi in Tehran. This visit should be considered as part of the all-out efforts being made at regional and international levels to end the fighting between the two neighbouring states in the Gulf. The Sudanese leader's mission assumes importance in view of the significant status of Mr. Mahdi, who heads a powerful and influential political and religious group in Sudan, and who enjoys respect and high reputation throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds. Therefore, we regard the visit as important, and one that gives the Muslim and Arab people a new hope for an end to the conflict that has lasted for more than six years. We attach great hopes to this visit, but we also hope that Tehran will respond favourably to the new bid for peace and the new plan for ending the war. Mr. Mahdi had paved the way for this mediation by touring a number of Islamic capitals and by carefully studying the situation, and the demands of either side to the conflict. It is hoped, therefore, that the visit will open the way for intensive efforts by regional and international organisations for backing Al Mahdi's moves. But most importantly we hope that Arab and Muslim countries will exert their efforts to bring real peace to the Gulf.

The 100th Congress: Israel gains

By Rex B. Wingerter

The writer is a Washington, DC-based attorney. His monograph *Pro-Israel PACs: American Jewry and the U.S. Congress* will be published in January, 1987 by the American Education Trust, Washington, DC. This article is reprinted from the London-based *Middle East International*.

THE Democratic party's victory in November's elections, when it recaptured the Senate and increased its lead in the House, translated into significant gains for pro-Israel forces in Congress. The pro-Israel lobby counted a gain of seven or eight friends in the Senate and the defeat of a number of senators deemed insufficiently sensitive to Israel's needs. In the House, the pro-Israel camp was also strengthened. No Israel supporter in a leadership position lost, while some members with lacklustre record on Israel were

military contracts. As one pro-Israel lobbyist summed up the 99th: "We got it all."

The 100th Congress will surely match last year's aid appropriations and forge new advantageous investment and trade programmes for Israel. One legislative proposal will review a call to forgive a significant part of Israel's heavy military debt to the U.S. A 1985 proposal to forgive about \$535m of the debt was near passage when the Pollard spy case caused such an uproar that the bill's supporters decided to postpone a vote.

Arab interests and sensitivities will get little or no meaningful hearing in the new Congress. It will be practically impossible for any Arab state to get legislative approval for U.S. arms sales. Under present arms sales procedures, once the president approves a package, Congress must go through a two-step process to block it: first, it must pass a congressional resolution of disapproval; and second, following the president's veto of the resolution, it must obtain a two-thirds majority to override the veto. Congress has always fallen one or two votes short of overriding a presidential veto but that could change under the new Congress. Moreover, a bill proposed by presidential hopeful Senator Joseph Biden and congressman Mel Levine would do away with the two-step procedure altogether and substitute a new law requiring a

simple majority vote of approval before a president could sell any "major" weapons to the Middle East. Because the pro-Israel lobby can always muster at least a simple majority in Congress to oppose arms sale to the Arab states, future sales to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states will become dubious, and sales to Egypt will run into serious trouble, if this bill is enacted.

The success of the pro-Israel forces in the November election lay in Jewish votes and campaign financing. The Jewish vote was important in at least four Senate races. It was decisive in electing Democratic incumbent senator Alan Cranston in California, Israel's staunchest supporter in the Senate, and in electing newcomer Bob Graham in Florida. Jewish voters also turned out in significant numbers in support of two other incumbents, New York senator Alfonse D'Amato and Pennsylvania senator Arlen Specter. The Jewish community, however, constitutes only about two per cent of the U.S. population and its voting is important only in three of four states. A greater influence that the Jewish community marshalled in the elections was campaign financing.

Political campaigns in the U.S. are very expensive undertakings: in the 1984 election, it took about \$269,656 to win a House seat and \$2.9 million to prevail in the Senate. Campaigns are financed from contributions from political action committees (PACs), which are private organisations representing special interest groups that raise and contribute money to their favourite candidate. Candidates are often beholden to the PAC's once they win office: Senator Barry

Goldwater once complained that PACs "set the country's political agenda and control nearly every candidate's position on the important issues of the day." Pro-Israel PACs pumped more than \$2 billion into November's elections in an attempt to elect members of Congress sympathetic to Israel. Eighty-one such PACs were involved in channelling campaign contributions to over 230 Senate and House candidates throughout the United States. It is the ability of pro-Israel PACs located in New York, California or Florida to make substantial contributions in elections in Nevada, Iowa or Maine that is central in building a pro-Israel Congress, and what the Jewish community lacks in the number of voters is made up for by the largesse of pro-Israel PACs.

Pro-Israel PACs were extremely successful in November in electing the candidates of their choice. In the Senate, 25 out of the 33 candidates they backed won their election races. In the House, pro-Israel PACs achieved about a 90 per cent success rate. Contributions typically go to incumbents that sit on committees with jurisdiction over foreign policy, appropriations and military affairs. Senator Cranston, for example, is on the Middle East sub-committee of the Senate foreign relations committee, and received over \$125,000 for his re-election bid. Mr. Cranston is recognised as Israel's most vocal and active supporter in the Senate; he consistently opposed weapons sales to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and any other Arab state, while staunchly defending U.S. aid levels to Israel. Similarly, senator Kasten, received over \$117,000 from pro-Israel PACs and is the chairman of the foreign

operations sub-committee of the appropriations committee, which oversees the billions of dollars that the U.S. sends yearly to Israel. Kasten not only strongly supports U.S. aid to Israel, but is the principal advocate of reducing the interest rate on Israel's U.S. loans from the current average of 11.4 per cent to five per cent. This move would cost the U.S. treasury about \$531m in lost interest payments. Co-sponsoring Kasten's plan is senator Daniel Inouye, who received \$48,825 from pro-Israel PACs in 1986.

Pro-Israel PAC funds are also used as a "stick" against incumbents that have not been pro-Israel enough. In Idaho, John Evans was the benefactor of pro-Israel PAC money mainly because in 1977, incumbent Steve Symms, then a member of the

PACs targeted and helped to defeat Republican Senator James Abdnor simply because he is an Arab. Abdnor opposed all U.S. foreign aid programmes and voted for the 1981 AWACS sale to Saudi Arabia. He recently joined Israel's congressional allies in refusing to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Nonetheless, the fear that Abdnor would some day vote for his ethnic roots, as did his predecessor James Abowork, put him on the pro-Israel PAC hit list.

PACs have become a fixed feature of the American political landscape, with pro-Israel PACs constituting only a fraction of the more than 4,000 established PACs that contributed over \$374m in congressional races in 1984. Yet pro-Israel PACs are unique. Their impact on U.S. foreign policy toward the Middle East is profound. No pro-Arab PACs exist to balance the pro-Israel campaign contributions. The so-called Arab lobby is miserably ineffective, and American Jewish fears of an emerging "petrocorporate class" beholden to Saudi Arabia have proved unfounded. The emergence of the single-issue PAC, holding substantial financial resources, reinforces Congress's strong pro-Israel voting behaviour and potentially stifles any dissent or meaningful discussion on the Israel/Palestine conflict. Indeed, pro-Israel PACs took credit in 1984 for defeating the Senate foreign relations chairman Paul McCloskey's bid for the California senate. All three men advocated U.S. discussions with the Palestinians and the PLO as a means of finding peace in the Middle East. Most members of Congress took their defeats as a message not to oppose Israel's interests on Capitol Hill.

Arab interests and sensitivities will get little or no hearing

House of Representatives, took a trip to Tripoli to sell Idaho wheat to the Libyan government. Despite PAC efforts, however, Evans lost the election by a four percent margin. But in California, pro-Israel PACs did defeat Republican challenger Ed Zschau, not only because they backed Cranston, but because they opposed Zschau's support for arms sales to Saudi Arabia, for reducing supplementary aid to Israel, and, as he told the *Los Angeles Times*, the fact that he would not automatically vote pro-Israel on any issue before him. In South Dakota, pro-Israel

Somali president gears up for new seven-year term

By Mohamoud Afrah

MOGADISHU — President Mohamed Siad Barre, who switched Somalia's allegiance from Moscow to Washington, is gearing up for a further seven-year term.

Barre, 67, has ruled the arid East African nation since 1969 and will be the only candidate in presidential elections on December 23.

No one doubts that he will repeat his performance in 1980 at the last presidential election when official returns gave him 99.91 per cent of the vote.

Barre's decision to contest the preset poll underlines his determination to remain at the helm after 17 years of stormy rule.

The populist army general has survived innumerable coups, a humiliating defeat in the 1977-78 Ogaden war with Ethiopia, a change of superpower alliances and serious injury in a car crash last May.

He was laid up in a Saudi Arabian hospital for a month as a result of his injuries. He resumed his presidential duties at the end of June and the government announced that he had made a full recovery.

But three months later diplomatic sources reported that Barre's doctors were still advising him to maintain a short working day.

Nevertheless, his continuing authority was confirmed at a congress of the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party, the country's only legal political grouping, in November.

The congress endorsed Barre's leadership of the party and government and supported his current policies of friendship with the United States and economic development along Western lines.

Somalia embarked last year on a new liberal economic policy underpinned by an International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan agreement.

After years of trying to build "scientific socialism" on the Soviet model, Barre suddenly began to promote private enterprise and foreign investment.

The IMF agreement reflected Somalia's increasing dependence on Western aid, which now represents \$400 million a year or 40 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

Somalia's other main source of revenue is money sent home by 100,000 Somali workers in the Gulf states.

Most of the country's five million people are nomadic herdsman and its only major export is livestock shipped on the hoof to Arab countries for slaughter.

In addition to the burden of its own poverty, Somalia has to house and feed 700,000 Ethiopian refugees, most of whom are ethnic Somalis who fled during the Ogaden war.

Following his campaign for Western-financed economic development, Barre launched a drive to normalise relations with Marxist Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, his former ally.

He met Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Mariam in Djibouti last January for the first

time and the Somali and Ethiopian foreign ministers have since held further inconclusive talks.

Somalia began a slow rapprochement with the Soviet Union last month when a high-level delegation visited Moscow for the first time since Barre tore up a treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union in 1977.

Barre developed close links with Moscow shortly after seizing power in a 1969 coup and began to create a socialist economy on Soviet lines.

He signed the 20-year treaty of friendship, nationalised most of the economy and allowed the Soviet navy to establish a base at the deep water port of Berbera.

But all this ended in 1977 when the Soviet Union sided with Ethiopia in the Ogaden War. Barre expelled his 6,000 Soviet advisers, ended the base agreement and threw himself into the West's open arms.

In 1980, he signed a defence agreement with Washington and U.S. warships began visiting the former Soviet naval facilities in Berbera. The United States and Somalia have since held regular joint exercises.

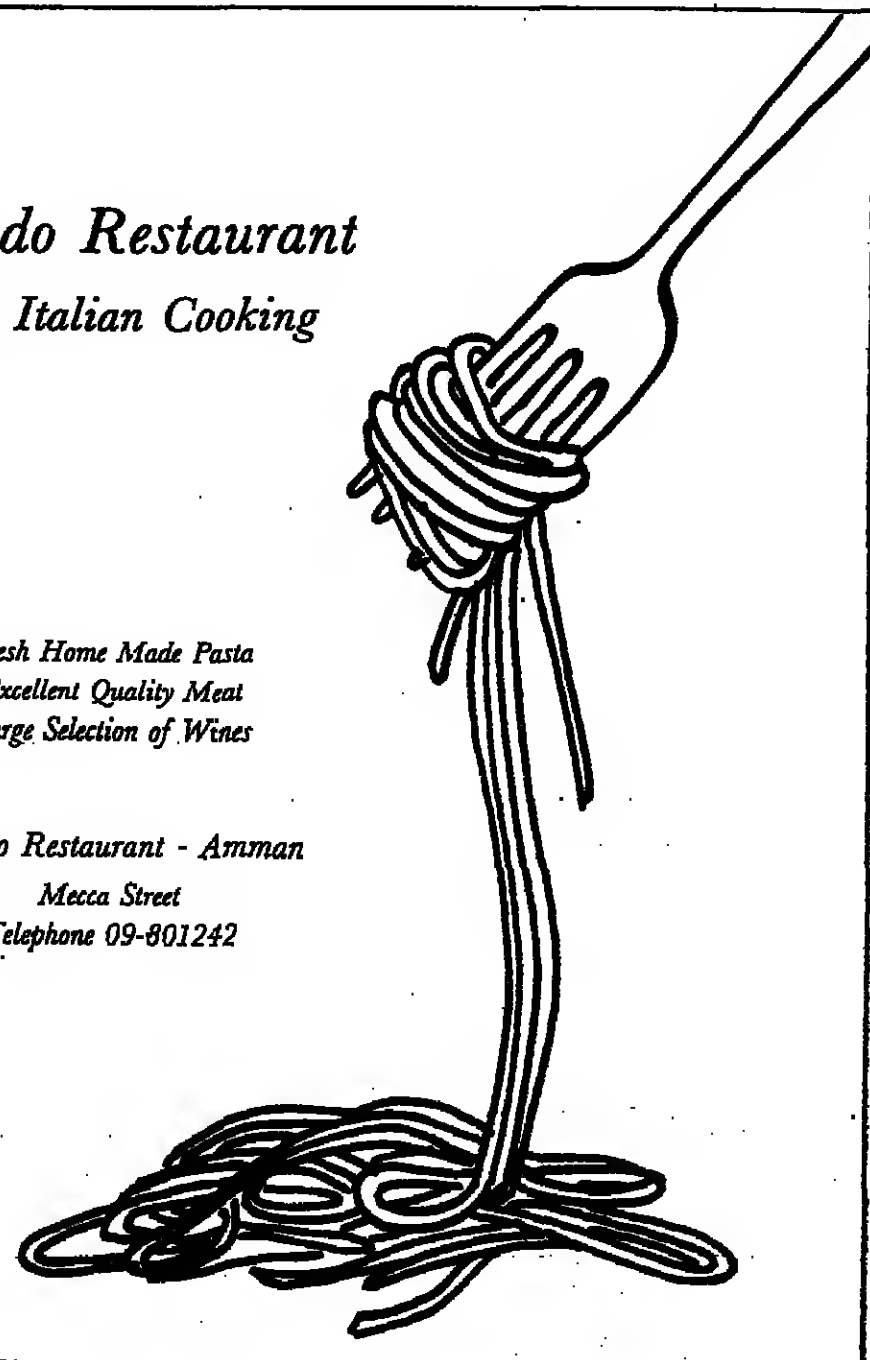
U.S. assistant Secretary of State for Africa Chester Crocker said in Mogadishu recently that Washington was not worried by Somalia's attempt to patch up relations with the Soviet Union and Ethiopia.

He described this as a good neighbour policy, which any country had a right to follow.

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Palestinian immigrants try to preserve cultural heritage

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Arab immigrants from one small West Bank town have banded together to keep their traditions and culture from being lost in America's vast ethnic melting pot.

In 14 cities across the United States, members of the El Bireh Society meet occasionally to eat, drink and talk about old times while their children sing traditional Arabic songs or dance the dabka.

"Basically it is to keep our own identity in the American culture," said Abuasi, the vice president of the New York chapter, said in a recent interview.

All of the nearly 2,500 members of the society come from El Bireh, a city of 45,000. Society members estimate 5,000 former residents of El Bireh are living in the United States.

"It is not so much when you consider there are 3 million Palestinians living outside their homeland," said Kal Shalabi, a

member of the Chicago chapter said in a telephone interview.

Members say the society's main purpose is social and cultural. There are other groups, they say better equipped to push Palestinian or Arab political causes in the United States.

Still, they say they have, as a group, called for the resignation of the Israeli-appointed mayor of El Bireh. And as individuals, they say they have tried to instill a deep sense of Palestinian pride and patriotism in their children.

"Who is going to carry on the cause if we don't do it?" said Abuasi. "It is not a matter of hatred against anyone... you just let them know what it is all about."

Abuasi and Musa Ebeid, the president of the New York chapter, said most of the immigrants from El Bireh came to the United States looking for a better way of life. But Ebeid added that now "some people will do anything to get out of there because the Israelis take such a hard line."

"We are considered illegal aliens in our own land," said Abuasi, who estimated about 80 per cent of the former El Bireh residents in the United States came after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Ebeid said all of the 120 members of the New York chapter are American citizens. But he added that "we are Arabs first."

"If the West Bank was settled and there was peace, I would be the first to go back," said Ebeid. "But if it is a very big word," said Abuasi.

Ebeid said the main goal of the society is help the immigrants preserve their traditions, religion and language. He said many members still own homes in El Bireh and make frequent trips home. It is important, he said, that his children learn the old ways and see the old city.

"They live here, on the New York streets with all the drugs. Over there, it is beautiful. It is a religious culture. There are no drugs like you see on New York

streets," he said. Ebeid said the society's most important activity is a programme to finance the college education of some poor students in El Bireh.

Abuasi said the society eventually wants to educate 18 students a year at Birzeit University on the West Bank. He said they pay for 11 students now.

"To us it is a big thing to help these children," said Ebeid, who estimated it costs the society \$500 to 600 a year for each student.

"Most Palestinians are well educated," said Ebeid. "They are the third- or fourth-best educated people in the world. Among the Arabs, we are the best-educated."

Shalabi, a spokesman for the national secretary general, Izzidin Rushdi Naser, said the organisation was founded in 1982 partly so members across the country could keep in touch.

Ebeid said membership was limited to former El Bireh residents because they wanted to preserve the old ties. He also said one reason they form a Palestinian society was because of the

negative image of Palestinians in the United States. "Most (Palestinians) are hard working, but they are still hated. Maybe not hated, but not liked. We are born Palestinian, so we are no good" in the eyes of Americans, Ebeid said. Shalabi also said the society also was formed because the Israelis deposed the mayor of El Bireh in 1982. Israeli authorities said Mayor Ibrahim Al Tawil was deposed for opposing the military government.

"It forced the people in America to try to rally around and to help their neighbours and relatives back in El Bireh," he said.

The society, in messages sent to the authorities in El Bireh, has called for democratic elections. On Sept. 28, Israeli occupation forces appointed new mayors for the West Bank towns of El Bireh, Hebron and Ramallah.

Radical Palestinian groups in the Middle East have threatened to kill the mayors. A similarly appointed mayor of Nablus, Zafer

El Masri, was killed in March, soon after he took office.

Shalabi said the society's executive committee sent a message to El Bireh, urging the mayor and other officials appointed by the Israelis to resign. "We as an association are asking these Palestinians to respect their fellow people and not be appointed by the Israelis," he said.

Ebeid, however, stressed that the action was unusual, that the society normally shies away from any political involvement. The local meetings and the annual national convention, he said, are like a reunion of members often bound together by marriage.

The next national convention will be in New York in August, and Ebeid said the local chapter was busy with such tasks as planning and finding a hotel to host the gathering.

"It could be a problem because not all of them (hotels) will accept a Palestinian organisation," he said.

Helmut Schmidt framed

By Rüdiger Dürth

FORMER Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (photo) is impressed by his portrait in oils unveiled in the Chancellor's Office in Bonn. The 1.13 x 1.33-metre canvas evidently impresses his wife Lilli too. It is the latest addition to the gallery of portraits of former Chancellors Herr Schmidt himself suggested launching 10 years ago when he held office. All former Chancellors were to feature in this small, first-floor collection of portraits at the Chancellor's Office near the Rhine. As former Chancellor he sprung a surprise in choosing to have his portrait painted by an East German artist, the internationally acclaimed Leipzig painter Bernhard Heisig (left). He spent several days at home in Hamburg and in Professor Heisig's studio in Leipzig sitting for his portrait — although Helmut Schmidt is the first to admit that he is not a man to sit still willingly. Yet the portrait was finished. It features an energetic Helmut Schmidt, a man looking into the future. Five portrait studies were made; Professor Heisig has destroyed two and kept the others. The largest portrait in the Chancellors' gallery is that of Konrad Adenauer, the first Federal Chancellor. It was painted by Munich artist Hans-Jürgen Kallmann in 1963. The well-known Adenauer portrait by Oskar Kokoschka was unsuitable as being too large for the wall space provided. In 1976 the Chancellor's Office commissioned portraits of Chancellors Ludwig Erhard and Kurt Georg Kiesinger from Munich artist Günter Rambow. The portrait of Willy Brandt, the first Social Democratic Chancellor, presented problems. George Meisermann painted an abstract portrait entitled "Coloured Notes on the Biography of the Federal Chancellor 1969-73" that was unveiled in 1978, when Helmut Schmidt was in office. When Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl took over in 1982 he was unhappy with Meisermann's portrait. He wanted the Chancellors' gallery to consist of recognisable portraits. Braving the art world's ire, and with the approval of Willy Brandt's new portrait was commissioned from Düsseldorf painter Oswald Petersen, whose work replaced its predecessor in mid-1985. The latest addition, Helmut Schmidt in oils, completes the collection. Five paintings are now in place, all recognisable as portraits of the men they portray.



Leading lawyer named to conduct Watergate-style inquiry into U.S.-Iran deal

(Continued from page 1)

whether to bring formal charges. If an indictment is returned, then the counsel conducts the prosecution at a public trial.

The House of Representatives Intelligence Committee was hoping on Friday to learn from Mr. Meese whether the contra sales really did benefit from U.S. arms sales to Iran and if so, by how much.

Congressional committees had planned to seek more testimony from Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, but he collapsed on Monday and surgeons on Thursday removed a malignant tumour from his brain. It is expected to be weeks before he recovers sufficiently to appear.

However, former CIA Director Stansfield Turner said Casey deputy Robert Gates, who has taken over current direction of the agency, should be able to answer any questions which might be asked on Capitol Hill.

Congressional investigators are also expected to seek testimony from American gun-runner to the contra Eugene Hasenfus, who returned to the United States on Thursday after being pardoned in Nicaragua where he was serving a 30-year prison sentence imposed for terrorism and security violations.

The house panel was expected to wind up the first round of congressional investigations into the Iran-contra scandal which will then be passed to Watergate-style select committees of both houses when the new Congress meets on Jan. 6.

The Senate Intelligence Committee ended hearing on Thursday by again questioning former White House National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, whose statements that President Reagan authorised arms

shipments to Iran last August conflict with testimony by Presidential Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

The Washington Post said Thursday Mr. Reagan's political director had told Mr. Regan to resign for the president's sake.

It said White House Political Director Mitchell Daniels told Mr. Regan in a private conversation that Mr. Reagan's high standing with Republicans in Congress and elsewhere had been hurt by the Iran-contra scandal and he needed a "fresh start."

Mr. Regan has been criticised for his handling of the crisis. The Post said it was informed of Mr. Daniels' call for Mr. Regan to resign and make a clean break with the White House by informed Republican sources.

Mr. Regan has repeatedly said he would not resign. In addition to several members of Congress who have said he should go, the president's wife Nancy has been reported as feeling he failed to protect Mr. Reagan and should leave the administration.

The Senate Intelligence Committee plans to release a public report of "all of the facts which are not in dispute" before the new Congress convenes, Chairman David Durenberger, a Republican, said.

President Reagan, in a letter to the committee earlier this week said, "I am requesting that your committee promptly make a comprehensive and detailed report as to the findings of its hearings."

One question apparently still unsettled was the timing of Mr. Reagan's authorisation for shipments of arms to Iran.

Mr. McFarlane on Thursday stood by his testimony that Mr. Reagan orally approved in advance the first shipment of U.S. arms to Iran in September 1985. Intelligence committee members, including Mr.

Durenberger and Vice Chairman Patrick Leahy, indicated they were inclined to accept Mr. McFarlane's version over that of Mr. Regan, who said the president had not authorised the shipment and only learned about it later.

Mr. Regan, however, told reporters after testifying before the House Intelligence Committee, "to the best of my recollection, the president was against the shipment at that time (1985)."

"When we finally found out about it, we decided not to comment on it for fear it would endanger the hostages. To the best of my knowledge he did not approve it... we put up with it, it had happened, it was water over the dam."

Israeli officials who acted as middlemen in the arms transfer have supported Mr. McFarlane, saying they believed Mr. Reagan authorised the first arms shipment in August 1985.

An Israeli newspaper said Friday that Mr. Reagan thanked Prime Minister Shimon Peres for Israel's transfer of U.S. arms to Iran in a personal call made in September 1985.

The Maariv daily's report was in line with the testimony of Mr. McFarlane.

But it appeared to contradict Mr. Reagan's statement that he only approved the arms shipments only in January 1986.

The Maariv report said Israel shipped 100 U.S.-made Tow rockets to Iran in August, and made a second transfer on Sept. 14, 1985. In return, the Rev. Benjamin Weir was released on the same day after 16 months of captivity in Lebanon.

After Mr. Weir's release, the newspaper said, Mr. Peres received "a personal phone call from Mr. Reagan in which the president thanked him for the Israeli role in this affair."

After hearing Mr. McFarlane testify for the second time on the 1985 shipment, Mr. Durenberger said of Mr. Reagan: "I think he was informed of what was going on. With a little bit of reminding, the president would acknowledge he was informed."

The cooties have denied receiving any money through the Swiss accounts set up to handle the Iranian profits and congressional investigators say they are still in doubt whether any, or how much of it, reached the Nicaraguan rebels.

Mr. Durenberger said, "The major fact that's unproven... and probably won't be for some substantial point of time, is how much money was diverted from the Iranian arms sale to the contra and which contra."

"All the money could be sitting in a Swiss bank account as far as we know," he said.

Mr. Meese said last month that \$10 million to \$30 million in profits from the weapons sale was deposited in Swiss bank accounts for use by the contra.

However, the Washington Post said Mr. Meese testified to the Senate panel his figure was based on an account given him by Col. North in November, and Col. North had been unable to estimate how much money had been channelled to the contra.

In addition to Mr. McFarlane, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger also testified again Thursday about the Iran arms affair, while Vice President George Bush met with a special panel looking into the National Security Council (NSC).

But again, there was only sparse information about the reported funneling on money.

The vice president asked to meet with the panel "just to give them his ideas about changes that could be made in the functioning and operations of the NSC," said his spokesman, Martin Fitzwater,

but he declined to say what the vice president had told the group.

The appearances of Mr. Weinberger, before the house intelligence committee, and of Mr. McFarlane — returning to the Senate Intelligence Committee — also were behind closed doors.

In other developments: — The FBI is investigating why it was told by the Justice Department in October to delay a probe into an airline linked to the Iran-contra affair, the New York Times reported. The FBI was told at the time that its investigation might upset clandestine efforts to free American hostages in Lebanon.

— Deputy White House spokesman Albert Brashear refused to confirm or deny a published account that Mr. Daniels had suggested that Mr. Regan resign to give the president "a fresh start."

— Brashear said he was not aware that Mr. Reagan told anyone his own recollections about when he authorised the arms sale to Iran. Mr. McFarlane testified Mr. Reagan gave him a verbal approval, but Mr. Meese said the president learned of the sale only after the fact and "agreed with the general concept."

— The Swiss government confirmed Thursday the United States had asked it to freeze nine additional bank accounts. Two accounts linked to Col. North were frozen earlier.

The Washington Post said the additional accounts belonged to three companies and six individuals. The newspaper quoted Swiss authorities as saying two of the accounts apparently belong to Saudi Arabian arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi and Iranian exile Manucher Ghorbanifar, who have acknowledged brokering the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran.

The New York Times identified another account as that of a

company called Hyde Park Holdings. Corporate records in Panama show that a company named Hyde Park Holdings was chartered in March and is headed by Mohammad Said Ayas, a Saudi Arabian described by Saudi sources as the manager of business affairs for a son of King Fahd, the Times said.

— Iran condemned the United States for supplying intelligence data to Iraq, saying this showed Washington was not neutral in the Gulf war, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The Washington Post reported on Monday that the United States had been supplying detailed intelligence, including data from satellite reconnaissance photography, to Iraq.

U.S. officials have confirmed "the broad thrust" of the report. The Foreign Ministry statement, published in Islamic Republic newspaper, said the revelation was not news to Iran but it "clearly showed America's war-mongering role in the world."

— The Wall Street Journal, in a report published Friday, linked Col. North with the American cargo plane shot down over Nicaragua in October. The newspaper reported that Felix Rodriguez, a former CIA operative with close ties to Mr. Bush, notified Col. North that the plane was missing, according to unidentified U.S. officials.

The officials also reportedly said that Col. North immediately flew to El Salvador to prevent details of the contra supply mission from becoming public and to arrange death benefits for survivors of the two Americans killed in the crash.

Among some investigators, questions remained about whether the Iran-contra deal was deliberately arranged so that higher officials would be able to legitimately deny knowledge after having given oblique approval.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — Dec. 20, 1986
8:30 You Again

Letters alluding to their relationship.

9:00 A Special Doc.
Rise and Fall of The CIA

Tue. — Dec. 23, 1986
8:30 Music Box

An investigation of the origins and development of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

9:30 Yes, Prime Minister

10:20 Feature Film
White Horses of Summer

A pay rise for members of parliament has to be postponed as the government runs into a financial crisis. But top civil servants are also due for a pay rise, and Sir Humphrey has to convince the prime minister that they should not make the same sacrifice.

A story of an American family with their child in holiday in Italy. The wife falls in love with an Italian, but after an accident happens to the child all the holiday mood changes.

10:20 Simon and Simon
Wed. — Dec. 24, 1986

Sun. — Dec. 21, 1986
8:30 Sorry

8:30 Three's Company

9:10 Doc. — The Story of S.O.E.

9:00 Doc. — Medical Mistake Who Pays the Price

5. The Sword and The Shield

9:30 Brat Farrar

In September 1941, a South African mining engineer, who had spent five years in Yugoslavia before the war, was landed by submarine off the coast of Montenegro. He had no military experience, his briefing had been hopelessly vague and his radio equipment was obsolete. In a country occupied by German and Italian armies, he found Yugoslav killing Yugoslav. Yet Bill Hudson was determined to find a leader worthy of British support.

The Lane Colony has returned home, accompanied by Manteo. Raleigh admires Lae for giving up the expedition and empathises with Manteo who has lost his ruler. Raleigh promises he will ask for White and Manteo's help when the time comes to send another garrison to Virginia.

10:20 Return to Eden

11:10 Moonlighting (A Christmas story)

Mon. — Dec. 22, 1986

Thur. — Dec. 25, 1986

8:30 No Place Like Home

8:30 Growing Pains

9:10 The Count of Monte Cristo

9:10 Falcon Crest

Dantes looks after an old abbe in the prison who reveals that he knows the location of an immense fortune hidden by an Italian family.

10:20 Feature Film

Call of The Wild

10:20 Stranger and Brothers

Fri. — Dec. 26, 1986

Sir Lewis Eliot has allied himself closely with the non-nuclear defence policy proposed by the secretary of state for defence, Roger Quatre, Quatre's position seems threatened when he reveals he has a mistress — and that she has been receiving anonymous

9:10 Best Seller Asper

Starring: Sam Elliott Perry King

10:20 Sherlock Holmes The Six Napoleons

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Mexico's Roman retains title

BANGKOK (R) — Gilberto Roman of Mexico retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight boxing title when he outpointed Thailand's Kongtoranee Payakarun in their 12-round bout Friday.

It was Roman's fourth successful defence of the title he won from Japan's Hiro Watanabe on March 30.

Roman, 25, had predicted a knockout win but by contrast the fight developed into a defensive battle.

After an even first two rounds, Kongtoranee began to dominate, pinning Roman on the ropes and scoring with jabs to the body and crisp uppercuts.

But from the sixth round Roman took control, scoring consistently with probing left jabs.

As Kongtoranee began to tire, Roman began to find his target at will but although he was completely in control over the final four rounds he was unable to get the knockout he had forecast.

The three judges scored the fight 114-113, 115-113 and 116-114, all for the champion. The win gave Roman his 39th

victory in 43 outings and it was Kongtoranee's first defeat in 10 outings.

One of the busiest champions in the world, Roman has earned a lengthy rest before he begins training on Jan. 2 for his fifth defence.

Promoter Rafael Mendoza said Roman would take on Antoine Montero of France in the challenger's homeland.

"Romao is a very good champion. He is ready to defend anywhere. He went to Argentina to fight (Santos) Laciari, to Venezuela to meet (Edgar) Monserat and came here to fight Kongtoranee. After Montero we may go to Argentina again to clear the record against Laciari," Mendoza said.



SYRIA WINS POLICE JUDO: The judo team from Syria took first place in the Arab police judo competition held at the Sports Palace of the Al Hussein Youth City. The team was presented the victor's cup by Public Security Director Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hadi Al Majali on Thursday evening at the Sports Palace after the conclusion of the four-day competition in which teams from Tunisia, Iraq, Kuwait as well as Syria and Jordan took part. The team from Tunisia placed second, and the one from Kuwait third. Iraq was fourth, and Jordan fifth.

Draw looks likely in Sri Lanka, India cricket

KANPUR, India (R) — Rain and the strength of the two sides' batting lineups make a draw seem the most likely result in the first cricket test between India and Sri Lanka which resumes Saturday.

Rain and bad light forced the umpires to call off play without a ball being bowled on the second day Thursday with Sri Lanka 217 for two in its first innings.

Sri Lanka continues after Friday's rest day with Ravi Ramayake on 93 and Asanka Gurusinghe yet to score and the Sri Lankans must make runs quickly if they are to give themselves time to bowl India out twice.

Both captains, Kapil Dev of India and Sri Lanka's Duleep Mendis, said before the match they thought the grassy pitch would give some help to the bowlers.



SLIPPERY SOCCER: On a field covered with sleet, Al Duffatein defeated Al Jazira 1-0 at Amman Stadium on Friday. The win moved Al Duffatein to within 1 point of league leader Al Faisali, which drew with Al Ramtha 1-1 at Irbid Stadium also on Friday. In the photo, Al Duffatein striker Mohammad Al Masheh closes on Al Jazira goalie Akram Daoud with Al Jazira defender Mazin Zuhair in pursuit. In the close battle at the bottom, Al Qadisia defeated Amman 1-0, and Al Quozazi defeated Al Hussein 2-1, both matches held on Thursday. The bottom two teams will be relegated from the Premier Division. With two weeks to go in the season, Al Qadisia and Amman are tied with 13 points, with Al Quozazi at 12. Al Nasr, which defaulted a match with Al Ahli on Wednesday, is assured of relegation with only 6 points (Photo by Abu Siman).

Kankkunen wins world rallying championship

PARIS (R) — Juha Kankkunen was installed as world rally champion at the expense of fellow Finn Markku Alen after an event in which his Peugeot team was disqualified was ruled out of the title reckoning.

The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) executive committee on Thursday also suspended the licences of the San Remo Rally sporting commissioners for six months and fined the Italian organisers \$20,000 though the rally will again figure on next year's World Championship calendar.

FISA's move followed a decision by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) appeal court last month which cleared the French Peugeot team of breaking the rules in last October's rally.

Kankkunen was second behind Alen's Lancia team-mate Massimo Biasion of Italy after the third stage when stewards disqualified the Peugeot 205 Turbo 16's, saying strips on the underside of the cars gave them an illegal aerodynamic advantage.

FIA ruled there had been no fraud by Peugeot and the stewards had not been justified in disqualifying it because there was no proof of French cars had not conformed to regulations.

FISA echoed the parent body FIA and said the San Remo stewards' decision had falsified the progress of the rally and the World Championship.

Kankkunen had trailed Alen in the overall championship standings after he finished second to his Lancia rival in this month's Olympic Rally in the United States. But Thursday's ruling made him champion with 110 points, ahead of Alen on 104.

The decision gave Peugeot the drivers' and manufacturers' double — the team prize was already decided.

"It's lasted too long and caused great damage to Peugeot. Juha Kankkunen recovers a title which belongs to him. That gives me all the more pleasure because we had such a feeling of injustice and discouragement after San Remo," Peugeot team chief Jean Todt said.

But Peugeot will not defend its title next year following the banning of the most powerful Group B cars — an issue over which the French company has sued FIA for 20 million francs (\$3 million), pleading the changes imposed in the wake of fatal crashes in Portugal and Corsica, were made without sufficient notice. The case continues next month.

Gaspoz wins giant slalom

KRANSKA GORA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Switzerland's Joel Gaspoz on Friday edged Roeto Erbacher of Italy to win the fourth giant slalom race in this season's World Cup ski.

Gaspoz, 24, clocked the best aggregate time of 2:37.12 minutes. Erbacher came in second with a total time of 2:37.18 minutes.

It was Gaspoz' second victory of this season and sixth of his career. Italy's Richard Pramotton placed third in 2:37.58, 0.46 seconds behind the winner.

Fourth was Austria's Helmut Mayer with 2:38.16.

The world giant slalom champion Markus Wasmeier of West Germany finished fifth, ahead of Swedish veteran Ingemar Stenmark.

Seventh was Hubert Strolz of Austria, who led after the first run.

Michael Eder of West Germany came eighth and Switzerland's Pirmin Zurbriggen was ninth in the race in which only 30 competitors qualified.

Real Madrid heads for warm weather

LONDON (R) — While the rest of Europe's footballers prepare to don thermal underwear, gloves or woolen tights in an bid to keep out the cold, the Real Madrid players will enjoy the pleasurable feel of the sun on their backs this weekend.

Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, where the Christmas temperature hovers around 22 centigrade, is one of football's most idyllic outposts and the ideal spot for Real to rediscover its sunshine football.

A lacklustre 1-0 victory over Murcia in the Bernabeu Stadium Wednesday night took Real to within one point of league leader Barcelona, who was held to a goalless draw at Santander, and it will need to show some improvement on Sunday.

Despite Las Palmas' lowly league position of 13th, it is no soft touch at home where it has taken

13 points out of a possible 16 this season.

Mexican Hugo Sanchez took his goal tally to 17 by scoring the winner against Murcia but the Real attack badly missed injured World Cup striker Emilio Burruaguen, who is standing by to return after a knee injury.

Barcelona was somewhat fortunate to salvage even one point from its trip to Santander and it faces a tricky home fixture against sixth-placed Real Mallorca, who has been the surprise team of the year in Spain.

Italian league leader Napoli should have little problem in maintaining its two-point advantage over Juventus and Internazionale when it entertains Como, who could be without injured sweeper Stefano Maccoppi.

With West German captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge finally

showing glimpses of his old form, Inter should also dispose of lowly Ascoli but fading Juventus face a hazardous trip to Sampdoria.

Olympique Marseille and Bordeaux have a last chance to gain a clearcut lead in the French First Division on Saturday before the league programme takes a two-month winter break.

Respective victories over Racing Club Paris and Nice Wednesday night left the leaders equal on points and goal difference but with Marseille top because it has scored one more goal.

Marseille travels to Laval, who came down to earth with a 2-0 defeat at Toulouse after beating third-placed Monaco last weekend.

Bordeaux, champion for the past two seasons, travels to Toulon, who climbed off the bottom rung with a 1-0 win at Sochaux.

Year of achievements, year of failures

By Larry Siddons
The Associated Press

LONDON — In sports, 1986 was a year of great achievements and bitter disappointments, of champions emerging while others searched to rekindle the spark of international glory.

Soccer, the biggest sport in the world, had its biggest celebration at the World Cup, but experienced more trouble with violent fans.

With Diego Maradona placing his stamp so firmly on the tournament that soccer's international governing body dubbed it "the Maradona Games," Argentina won the gold trophy for the second time, defeating West Germany 3-2 in the final in Mexico City.

Maradona failed to score in that match but set up the winning goal with a pass to Jorge Luis Burruchaga, after the West Germans had rallied from a 2-0 deficit to tie the score.

The 24-team field for the World Cup finals included several first-time qualifiers, including Denmark, Iraq and Canada. A new name also was inscribed on one of Europe's three major

soccer trophies, as Steaua Bucharest defeated Barcelona for the Champions Cup. More familiar title-holders were Dynamo Kiev, in the Cupwinners Cup, and Real Madrid, in the UEFA Cup.

The specter of soccer violence crept across Europe. While 1986 was spared a repeat of the fatal May 29, 1985, riots at Heysel Stadium in Brussels at the European Champions Cup competition, thuggery became commonplace at matches in many European nations, most notably Italy, Greece and The Netherlands.

The Heysel disaster continued, to make news as Belgian authorities launched legal moves to extract 29 English fans to face charges for the bloodbath, in which 39 fans died.

Tennis was dominated on the courts by three players, and off the court by two.

Ivan Lendl strengthened his grip on the No. 1 men's ranking by winning the French Open and U.S. Open, while his primary challenger for the top spot, Boris Becker, beat Lendl for his second consecutive singles title at Wimbledon.

As the new year approached, Sweden prepared to defend its Davis Cup crown against Australia.

Martina Navratilova won the Wimbledon women's championship for a record-breaking fifth consecutive year, then regained the title at the U.S. Open. She also led the United States to victory in the Federation Cup in her first return to Czechoslovakia since defecting in 1975.

Chris Evert Lloyd stretched her record of at least one Grand Slam women's singles title in a season to 13 years when she defeated Navratilova in the final of the French Open. But Lloyd was hobbled for much of the year with a knee injury.

Dropping out of tennis for a time were two of the game's biggest names.

John McEnroe, top-ranked for most of the past five years, lost in the first round of the Grand Prix Masters last January and announced he needed a break.

He took six months off to get married and help his wife, actress Tatum O'Neil, with their newborn son, then returned to win three Grand Prix tournaments and pile up enough fines for on-court outbursts to be slapped with a 42-day suspension from Grand Prix tournaments.

Mats Wilander's absence from the tennis tour was shorter than McEnroe's, only about two months, and his return was much less explosive. He still won enough points to hold the No. 3 world ranking.

Greg Norman of Australia finally won a major golf

tournament, taking the British Open in the wind and rain of Turnberry in July. Norman had a shot at golf's Grand Slam, leading all four tournaments — the PGA, the Masters and the U.S. Open, as well as the British Open — going into the final round.

Jack Nicklaus became the oldest Masters champion at 46, while another veteran, Raymond Floyd, won the U.S. Open at 43. Bob Iyay edged Norman for the PGA crown by holing an incredible bunker shot on the final hole.

Grand Prix racer Nigel Mansell could sympathize with Norman.

Mansell took over the Formula One lead in mid-summer and looked like a good bet to become the first Briton since James Hunt in 1976 to win the World Driver's Championship. But a blown tire late in the season's final race in Australia stopped Mansell's title chase and enabled Alain Prost of France to take the crown for the third time.

In track, three women smashed world records by huge margins. American Jackie Joyner raised the heptathlon mark above the 7,000-point mark, to 7,161 at U.S. Olympic festival in Houston.

Norway's Ingrid Kristiansen lowered the 10,000-meter mark to 30 minutes, 13.74 seconds on July 5 in Oslo, then one month later cut the world mark for 5,000 metres to 14:37.3 in Stockholm. And Britain's Fatima Whitbread set the javelin record with a heave of 77.44 metres, more than two metres beyond the old mark, at the European Track and Field Championships on Aug. 28 in Stuttgart, West Germany.

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Juliano Jima
IN
TEX

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema PLAZA

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TOP GUN

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

GIRLS FOR LOVE

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4320/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3785/90	Canadian dollars
	2.0055/63	West German marks
	2.2670/80	Dutch guilders
	1.6845/55	Swiss francs
	41.73/78	Belgian francs
	6.5760/5810	French francs
	1391/1392	Italian lire
	163.05/15	Japanese yen
	6.9350/9400	Norwegian crowns
	7.5750/5800	Swedish crowns
	7.5840/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	394.00/394.50	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities drifted lower throughout the session on a lack of interest due to seasonal factors at the end of the account, dealers said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 was down 5.7 points at 1,624.9.

Dealers said that although lower, the market showed little reaction to a forecast by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) of a deterioration in the U.K.'s trade position and a rise in inflation.

Glaxo fell 1p to 1,032 on profit-taking after recent gains. The company announced a new drug on Friday but dealers noted that it would be at least three years before it is in general use.

Dealers noted little market response to news the U.K. government will investigate unspecified insider trading activities among civil servants. The news comes after a report on Thursday that a wholly-owned Guinness plc subsidiary had in the past joined a limited partnership managed by U.S. Arbitrageur Ivan Boesky, who has admitted insider trading in the U.S.

Guinness stood 2p higher on the day at 282 after an earlier low of 274. The shares moved off the early lows on news that Guinness had sold the old distillers headquarters for £30.5 million.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 20, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This is an excellent day for you to put into effect a course of action that has considerable scope to it. Consider your most ambitious aims and go after them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An ideal day to study every part of your big dream and go after it with certainty. Use care in driving.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You can improve home conditions easily today. It is wiser to entertain at home tonight. Be happy there.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get into the business world early and handle whatever is important to you. Contact good friends.

MOON CHILDREN (Jan. 22 to Jul. 21) Get busy arranging financial and other practical affairs. Make an appointment early.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) If you do not bring up money interests, you can have a happy time with the one you love.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be with congenials whose goals and interests are quite similar to your own. Enjoy your social life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Public business matters should work out smoothly now, so don't permit a secret worry to spoil things.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be on the alert for any new career outlets. Build up your prestige and don't make any radical changes now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You get fine ideas and should put them in operation. Don't permit pressure to deter you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take on that new enterprise that seems too big for you. Forget that outside desire for now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can contact outside allies and get good results, provided you do not forget to pay your dues.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You know exactly how to improve your interests. Take any health treatments that you may need.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will do very well provided enough praise and encouragement is given early in life and can accomplish more than most. One who will have a great goal in life and should be trained for a position of real power and importance. Give good ethical training.

THE Daily Crossword

by William Coakley

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